CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/3/95
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS TAYLOR, Halford, Kelly, Sharp, Frank, Green, Pearce

REPRESENTATIVE Ogan

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to federally held property in those states, including Alaska, admitted to
2 the Union since 1802.
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4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
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6 WHEREAS the founding fathers of this nation recognized that land is power and that
7 a centralized federal government with a substantial land base would eventually overwhelm the
8 states and pose a threat to the freedom of the individual; and
9 WHEREAS the original 13 colonies and the next five states admitted to the Union
10 were granted fee title to all land within their borders; and
11 WHEREAS all but two states admitted to the Union since 1802 were denied the same
12 rights of land ownership granted the states admitted earlier; and
13 WHEREAS art. I, sec. 8, of the Constitution of the United States of America makes
14 no provision for land ownership by the federal government, other than by purchase from the
15 states of land "...for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock-yards, and other needful
16 buildings"; and
17 WHEREAS acting contrary to the provisions of art. I, sec. 8, of the Constitution of
18 the United States, the federal government withheld property from the states admitted since
1802, making them land poor and unable to determine their own land use and development
policies; and
WHEREAS this action has made those states admitted since 1802 unequal to other
states and subject to unwarranted federal control; and
WHEREAS restoration of property to which they are historically and constitutionally
entitled would empower the land poor states to determine their own land use policies;
BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the 104th Congress of
the United States to right the wrong and to transfer to the states, by fee title, any federally
controlled property currently held within the states admitted to the Union since 1802; and be
it
FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress is urged to then purchase from the newly
empowered States land needed to meet the provision of art. I, sec. 8, United States
Constitution.
COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President
Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert Dole, Majority Leader of the U.S.
Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to
members of the delegations in Congress of those States admitted to the Union since 1802; to
the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.