A RESOLUTION

Relating to the removal of beaver from Washington, D.C.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the National Park Service is attempting to trap and remove at least two beavers from the vicinity of the Potomac Tidal Basin near the national Mall in Washington, D.C., because the beavers have downed four cherry trees and five white cedar trees; and

WHEREAS the natural wild and free roaming beaver were trapped to extinction in Washington, D.C., and the Potomac Tidal Basin beaver are only retaking habitat that the species has occupied forever and in which man is the trespasser; and

WHEREAS the return of beaver to Washington, D.C., will enhance the biological diversity of the nation's capital and the integrity of its residents, as cherry tree eating beavers cannot tell a lie; and

WHEREAS the unrestrained development of government buildings, highways, and urban sprawl in Washington, D.C. has destroyed beaver habitat, and immediate steps should be taken to halt all major construction projects; and

WHEREAS human activity in or around the Potomac Tidal Basin will undoubtedly have adverse effects on the new beaver colony; and

WHEREAS Washington, D.C., and the nation as a whole would benefit from greater
efforts on the part of the National Park Service to assist and protect wildlife by excluding
people from areas where wildlife is attempting to reestablish a foothold on its natural range
in the nation's capital; and

WHEREAS federal law requires that the Potomac Tidal Basin is now, because of the
beavers' pioneering effort, a critical habitat area; and

WHEREAS critical habitat areas are uniquely rare, and, without immediate
enforcement of federal laws, this unique subspecies of Potomac Tidal Basin beaver will again
become extinct; and

WHEREAS we have no information or good science about the habitat of the "Potomac
Tidal Basin beaver," and a task force of scientists should immediately be impaneled and all
human activity in the tidal basin area halted until a thorough and complete analysis has been
completed; and

WHEREAS the National Academy of Sciences has been studying predator control in
Alaska for five years, and the National Park Service has labeled these beaver as very evasive
and wily "tree predators"; and

WHEREAS the federal government is, over objections, reintroducing gray wolves,
grizzly bear, and lynx into several western states in order to enhance the biological diversity
in those states; and

WHEREAS the National Park Service is closing Glacier Bay National Park and
Preserve to fishing for crabs because the crabs are an essential element of the ecosystem of
the park and the long established and sustainable crab fishery is inconsistent with the
preservation of natural crab populations; and

WHEREAS the policy of the National Park Service in Alaska and several other states
is to remove the people rather than the animals when there is a conflict between people and
wildlife; and

WHEREAS federal law provides for extensive penalties for harassment of endangered
species;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the
National Park Service cease its efforts to remove the beaver from the Potomac Tidal Basin
in Washington, D.C., and assist the reestablishment of a healthy beaver population in the
nation’s capital; and be it
FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Fish and Wildlife Services to exercise its federal authority and cite, with criminal violations, members and contractors of the National Park Service who harass the Potomac Tidal Basin beavers; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the National Park Service to investigate the habitat requirements for beaver in Washington, D.C., and the adaptations that beaver have made to cope with the unique urban environment of Washington, D.C., establish protected beaver habitat areas in Washington, D.C., and use good science in its actions regarding beaver in Washington, D.C.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior; to Robert G. Stanton, Director, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior; to Jamie Rappaport Clark, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior; to all members of the U.S. Congress; to the Honorable John Kitzhaber, Governor, State of Oregon; to Paul G. Risser, Ph.D., President, Oregon State University; and 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.