

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

“Urging the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior to withdraw a secretarial order that creates a wild land classification and to administer federal lands in the state in accordance with existing statutes and agency guidelines; and urging the United States Congress to prohibit the use of appropriated funds by the United States Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management to implement, administer, or enforce the secretarial order.”

Sectional Analysis (Version M)

1. Cites the December 22, 2010 issuance of Secretarial Order (S.O.) 3310 by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.
2. Summarizes the intent of S.O. 3310.
3. Establishes that “Wild Lands” is a new designation.
4. Highlight’s the Alaska Citizen’s Advisory Commission’s determination that S.O. 3310 was drafted without state input and violates President Obama’s pledge towards transparent government.
5. Establishes that Congress is the sole authority for wilderness land designation.
6. States that S.O. 3310 does not recognize Alaska’s unique culture nor natural resource development.
7. Cites the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) as already designating 57 million acres of Alaska land as “wilderness.”
8. States that Congress, through ANILCA, has already determined there is sufficient “wilderness lands” in Alaska and prohibited managing subsequent lands for their “wilderness characteristics” without prior Congressional approval.
9. References the inaccurate statement by the Department of the Interior that there has never been a wilderness inventory in Alaska.
10. Highlights S.O. 3310’s reversal of 30 years of prior existing Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land review policy in Alaska.
11. References the scope of the “Wild Lands, Inventory, and Planning Guidance Questions and Answers” issued by the Department of the Interior.
12. States that S.O. 3310 violates the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.
13. States that designating “Wild Lands” in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska would preclude resource development in this area.
14. States that S.O. 3310 enables the BLM to establish de-facto wilderness areas without required Congressional oversight.
15. States that S.O. 3310 creates a presumption against resource development in designated lands and that this will have a negative impact on Alaska’s economic well-being.
16. Requests that the Secretary of the Interior immediately withdraw S.O. 3310.
17. Urges Congress, subject to the refusal of the Interior Secretary to withdraw S.O. 3310, to prohibit the use of federal funds to implement said order.