

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLETT

Introduced: 3/13/15

Referred:

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to pass the Improved National Monument**
2 **Designation Process Act.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the President of the United States may "declare by public proclamation
5 historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or
6 scientific interest" as national monuments under the Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431 -
7 433), and the United States Congress may establish national monuments through legislation;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS** the Antiquities Act requires the President of the United States to reserve
10 "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be
11 protected" within the boundaries of the national monument; and

12 **WHEREAS** there are already 142 national monuments ranging in size from less than
13 an acre to nearly 140,000 square miles spread out across the land and water of the United
14 States; and

15 **WHEREAS** President Barack Obama has unilaterally expanded the scope and
16 boundaries of national monuments; and

1 **WHEREAS** President Obama has established 10 new national monuments since
2 beginning his second term of office; and

3 **WHEREAS** President Obama was responsible for the largest expansion of an existing
4 national monument when he added, by proclamation, approximately 400,000 square miles to
5 the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument in 2014; and

6 **WHEREAS** the establishment or expansion of national monuments without
7 consideration of the possible detrimental effects on natural resource development, commercial
8 fishing, tourism, and other industries may create considerable hardship on regional, state, and
9 local economies; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in February 2015, United States Senator Lisa Murkowski introduced S.
11 437, the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act, establishing new
12 requirements and limitations on the authority of the President of the United States to establish
13 or expand national monuments under the Antiquities Act; and

14 **WHEREAS**, under the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act, the
15 President of the United States may not establish a national monument unless it is approved by
16 the United States Congress and by each affected state or territory within 100 miles of the
17 proposed national monument;

18 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the direct involvement
19 of the United States Congress and the states in the establishment and expansion of national
20 monuments; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
22 Congress to pass S. 437, the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act, so that
23 the use of Alaska's renewable and nonrenewable resources is protected and environmentally
24 responsible resource extraction and development activities may take place.

25 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
26 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
27 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of
28 Representatives; the Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of
29 Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of
30 Representatives; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
31 Honorable Harry Reid, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski,

- 1 Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Dan
- 2 Sullivan, U.S. Senator, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the
- 3 Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 114th United States Congress.