

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 53 am S**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVES KELLY, Brice, Davies, Therriault, Croft, Bunde, James, Kemplen, Foster, Rokeberg, Williams**

**SENATORS Wilken, Kelly, Leman, Sharp, Green, Ward, Donley, Pearce, Mackie, Miller, Taylor, Torgerson, Phillips**

**Amended: 4/27/98**

**Introduced: 1/28/98**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to support for federal legislation providing for the continuation of the**  
**2 University of Alaska by the conveyance of federal land to the university.**

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

**4 WHEREAS** the University of Alaska is the oldest postsecondary school in the state  
**5 and plays a vital role in educating Alaskans as well as students from around the world; and**

**6 WHEREAS** the University of Alaska began as Alaska Agricultural and Mining  
**7 College, a land grant college; and**

**8 WHEREAS** the land grant system is one of the oldest and most respected forms of  
**9 financing education in the United States; and**

**10 WHEREAS** the land grant system provides grants of land to colleges and universities  
**11 for facility location and, more importantly, provides a method for sustaining revenues to those**  
**12 colleges and universities; and**

**13 WHEREAS** the University of Alaska received the smallest amount of land of any state  
**14 that has a land grant college except Delaware; to date, the university has received only about**  
**15 111,000 acres, less than one-third the acreage the university was originally promised; and**

**16 WHEREAS** S. 660, sponsored by Senator Frank Murkowski, would grant to the

1 University of Alaska 250,000 acres of federal land if the university agrees to relinquish to the  
2 federal government its extremely valuable inholdings in Denali National Park and Preserve  
3 and in other national parks, preserves, and refuges; and

4 **WHEREAS** S. 660 would grant to the University of Alaska an additional 250,000  
5 acres of federal land if the state agrees to grant to the university 250,000 acres of state land;  
6 and

7 **WHEREAS** S. 660 will provide a stable revenue stream to the University of Alaska  
8 while protecting the state's unique parks, preserves, and refuges; and

9 **WHEREAS** reasonable amendments can be made to S. 660 relating to the transfer of  
10 federal lands in the Tongass National Forest and the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges Senator Murkowski to  
12 continue working with representatives of the State of Alaska and the University of Alaska to  
13 consider amendments that will address the land grant deficiency of the University of Alaska  
14 and be in the best interest of the state; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the  
16 Congress of the United States to pass and the President to sign S. 660 as expeditiously as  
17 possible.

18 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the  
19 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President  
20 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S.  
21 Senate; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt  
22 Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Dick Armey, Majority  
23 Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the  
24 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.  
25 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.