

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/1/02  
Referred: Resources

**A RESOLUTION**

1    **Relating to federal land withdrawals.**

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

3            **WHEREAS** vast tracts of lands managed by federal agencies of the United States  
4 have been withdrawn from public entry; and

5            **WHEREAS**, in many instances, the original purpose for the withdrawal has been  
6 accomplished or lapsed; and

7            **WHEREAS**, in the State of Alaska, many of these withdrawn lands have been  
8 selected by the state under the Alaska Statehood Act for transfer to become state-owned  
9 lands; and

10           **WHEREAS** the withdrawn lands in the state have been selected because of their value  
11 for recreation, mineral resources, and access corridors; and

12           **WHEREAS** the withdrawn lands cannot be transferred to the State of Alaska until and  
13 unless the federal withdrawals are removed; and

14           **WHEREAS** the land managing agencies of the United States are neither empowered  
15 nor motivated to terminate these so-called "temporary" withdrawals; and

1       **WHEREAS** the continuation of the withdrawn lands in a withdrawn status is not in  
2 the public interest;

3       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the legislature of the State of Alaska hereby requests the  
4 Alaska Congressional delegation, as well as the Congressional delegations of the several  
5 states, to introduce and adopt legislation that would amend the laws of the United States to  
6 require that all land managing agencies identify (1) all withdrawn lands under their  
7 jurisdiction, (2) the statutory purpose for which the land withdrawal was made, (3) the status  
8 of the land withdrawal, and (4) the documents creating each land withdrawal, and file with the  
9 Congress a plan to terminate those withdrawals for which the statutory purpose has been  
10 accomplished or lapsed within one year from the passage of this legislation; and be it

11       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Congress should adopt, and the President of the  
12 United States should sign into law, any amendment to the public land laws that is necessary to  
13 terminate all land withdrawals not specifically incorporated into the statutory establishment of  
14 parks, refuges, wilderness areas, or other federal set-asides within the later of 10 years after  
15 the withdrawal or 10 years after the passage of the Act of Congress, and that the terminations  
16 should be self-actuating without further statutory or administrative action; notwithstanding the  
17 foregoing, the Act of Congress should provide the affected land-managing agency with  
18 authority to extend a specific withdrawal by providing the Congress with a detailed report  
19 setting out the reasons for an extension, the specific acreage involved, and a date certain upon  
20 which the withdrawal will terminate, which representation shall be binding on the agency.

21       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President  
22 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States  
23 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas Daschle, Majority Leader of the U.S.  
24 Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to  
25 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the  
26 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.