

**CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7(RES)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 2/13/01**

**Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**A RESOLUTION**

1   **Supporting reinstatement of the United States Department of the Interior directive**  
2   **exempting the United States Bureau of Land Management in Alaska from the**  
3   **mandatory wilderness review process.**

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

5       **WHEREAS**, in 1980, the United States Congress passed the Alaska National Interest  
6   Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which included sec. 1326, frequently referred to as the  
7   "no more clause", prohibiting further executive withdrawals and studies for the specific  
8   purpose of creating more conservation units or areas; and

9       **WHEREAS**, in sec. 1320, ANILCA expressly exempted the Bureau of Land  
10   Management from the sec. 603 wilderness review program of the Federal Land Policy and  
11   Management Act of 1976; and

12       **WHEREAS**, in 1981, the United States Secretary of the Interior issued a directive that  
13   prohibited the United States Bureau of Land Management from considering any of the  
14   80,000,000 acres the bureau manages in Alaska for designation as wilderness under the  
15   National Wilderness Preservation System; and

1       **WHEREAS**, on January 18, 2001, on one of his last days in office, United States  
2 Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt rescinded this 19-year-old directive without public  
3 comment or consultation with Alaska; and

4       **WHEREAS** the rescission is improper without public comment and the participation  
5 of Alaska, is not in the best interests of the state, and should be reinstated by the incoming  
6 administration; and

7       **WHEREAS** the requirement that all Bureau of Land Management administered  
8 roadless tracts of 5,000 or more acres be studied for their wilderness qualities will result in all  
9 areas being managed as quasi-wilderness and effectively create a virtual economic barrier;

10       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the rescission of this  
11 Department of the Interior directive; and be it

12       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the swift  
13 reinstatement of the directive by the administration of President George W. Bush.

14       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President  
15 of the United States; the Honorable Gale Norton, United States Secretary of the Interior; and  
16 to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the  
17 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.