

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK**

**Introduced: 1/22/25**

**Referred: Rules**

**A RESOLUTION**

1    **Opposing efforts to change the name of the tallest mountain in North America from**  
2    **Denali to Mt. McKinley, and supporting efforts to recognize the heritage and continuing**  
3    **importance of the mountain and of Alaska Native peoples.**

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

5            **WHEREAS** the Koyukon Athabaskan name Denali, which translates to "the high  
6    one," has been used as the name for the tallest mountain in the state for thousands of years;  
7    and

8            **WHEREAS** the name Denali evokes the appropriate respect and recognition  
9    throughout the world for the tallest mountain in North America, with an elevation of 20,310  
10   feet; and

11           **WHEREAS**, in 1896, prospector William Dickey christened the mountain Mt.  
12   McKinley after William McKinley of Ohio, then a candidate for President of the United  
13   States, who never visited the state; and

14           **WHEREAS**, on June 7, 1913, Walter Harper, a 20-year-old Athabaskan man from the  
15   interior of the state, became the first person to stand on the summit of the mountain; and

1           **WHEREAS**, in 2015, after decades of advocacy, the United States Department of the  
2 Interior changed the name from Mt. McKinley to the Koyukon Athabaskan name Denali; and

3           **WHEREAS** using the Koyukon Athabaskan name Denali respects thousands of years  
4 of the tradition and culture of and stewardship by Alaska Native peoples in the state;

5           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes efforts to change the  
6 name of the tallest mountain in North America from Denali to Mt. McKinley; and be it

7           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports efforts to  
8 recognize the heritage and continuing importance of the mountain and of Alaska Native  
9 peoples.

10          **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President  
11 of the United States; the Honorable J. D. Vance, Vice President of the United States and  
12 President of the U.S. Senate; United States Secretary of the Interior; and the Honorable Lisa  
13 Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich,  
14 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.