

Alaska Legislature

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House Concurrent Resolution 3

Sponsor Statement

In her speech before the both chambers of the Alaska Legislature, Senator Lisa Murkowski said one of her most pressing priorities was dealing with the continuing Federal encroachment of state affairs. The Senator has good reason to be concerned, as should all Alaskans. The Federal government has reneged on its commitment to the “no more clause” of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act by continuing to absorb more state land. Notoriously, the people of King Cove were denied an emergency access road through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge by the Department of the Interior on the grounds of environmental concerns. To add insult to injury, the Federal government has endangered the development and lives of Alaskans while lethargically cleaning up over one hundred of the “legacy wells” in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska that it drilled. It is a cliché to say these are outrages. The people of Alaska are tired of being outraged by acts such as these. The proper response to these challenges is action.

House Concurrent Resolution 3 would establish a joint committee between the House and the Senate to look into federal overreach at the legislative, executive and administrative levels. By having the Speaker of the House and the Senate President as the co-chairs, and requiring participation from both caucuses, the committee would be a comprehensive representation of the State of Alaska, investigating the barrage of new regulations and rules that affect the lives of residents all across the state. After reviewing these issues, the committee would issue a report and recommend legislation for the next legislative session. The committee would also hold public hearings and take testimony from communities. This is a crucial step in the assertion of a state being a member of a federation and not simply a servile region. Residents of Alaska should know that their state representatives and senators speak for them, and will advocate on their behalf.