



Alaska State Legislature

1972

Source:

SJR 59 am

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 59

Relating to pending federal legislation pertaining to protection of ocean mammals.

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

WHEREAS legislation is pending before the United States Senate which has as its stated purpose the protection of ocean mammals; and

WHEREAS, although the basic intent of this legislation may be praiseworthy, there is a grave danger that passage of present proposals would work a severe hardship for many of Alaska's peoples who must depend for their very existence on ocean mammals; and

WHEREAS under the terms of pending legislation persons would allegedly be permitted to hunt ocean mammals for subsistence living by traditional means and so long as waste did not occur, but not for any commercial end; and

WHEREAS what is meant by this language is not clear and has not been made clear in hearings held to date; and

WHEREAS hundreds of Alaskans depend on the ocean mammals for subsistence, and subsistence dependence goes far beyond the food utilization, such as the making of clothes and goods which are worn or sold to form the only economy of many villages; and

WHEREAS these Alaskans directly affected by passage of this far-reaching legislation have not had full opportunity to testify regarding the full impact of the pending legislation upon their social and economic well-being:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that the United States Senate Subcommittee on Oceans and Atmosphere is urgently requested to hold further public hearings on the proposed legislation which would afford Alaskans the opportunity to appear and testify personally before the committee on this issue of vital importance to them.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Warren G. Magnuson, Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee; the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings, Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Oceans and Atmosphere; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.