

STATE OF ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1979

Source

HR 13

House

Resolve No.

7



Relating to amendments to the 1906 Antiquities Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

WHEREAS the vast areas of land in Alaska withdrawn under the 1906 Antiquities Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 by the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Interior far exceed any reasonable concern for the temporary protection of the land until such time as Congress can dispose of it as provided for in 17(d)(2) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971; and

WHEREAS the 1906 Antiquities Act was originally intended to protect archaeological sites in the Southwest, and not to close large tracts of land to exploration for and development of oil, gas, minerals, and other natural resources; and

WHEREAS the effect of creating 17 national monuments in Alaska, covering approximately 56,000,000 acres under the 1906 Antiquities Act, and withdrawing approximately 40,000,000 acres under sec. 204(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, not only prevents the exploration for and utilization of natural resources for the benefit of the whole Nation, but also blocks access to adjacent areas which have high natural resources potential; and

WHEREAS it makes no sense that while the Nation is experiencing a continuing and increasing dependency on foreign oil at great cost, and frequently from unstable and unreliable foreign sources, the Nation should foreclose opportunities for development of energy resources and non-fuel minerals at home; and

WHEREAS a majority of the American public favors exploration for energy resources within federal wilderness areas;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska House of Representatives wholeheartedly supports proposed legislation presently being circulated in Congress that would curb the powers of the President of the United States and of the Secretary of the Interior to arbitrarily withdraw federal land under the 1906 Antiquities Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 without Congressional approval; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska House of Representatives favors an amendment to the 1906 Antiquities Act to require that the creation of any national monument in excess of 5,000 acres under the Act be approved by Congress by concurrent resolution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that existing land uses, including hunting, mining, guiding, hiking, boating, and use of motorized vehicles, not impacting the historic or archaeological sites or remains for which a national monument was created under the 1906 Antiquities Act, be allowed to continue; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that a more precise definition of "objects of historic or scientific interest" as used in the 1906 Antiquities Act be required to avoid having almost any land proclaimed a national monument; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that sec. 204(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 be amended to require Congressional approval for administrative land withdrawals instead of the existing Congressional veto.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter, President of the United States; the Honorable Cecil D. Andrus, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Henry S. Jackson, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; the Honorable John B. Breaux, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment; the Honorable John M. Murphy, Chairman of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; the members of the Special Task Force on Alaska Lands; John W. Katz, Special Counsel to the Governor of Alaska on (d)(2) Lands; Earl Miller, President of the Citizens for the Management of Alaska Lands; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.