

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1988

Source

SSHJR 58

Legislative
Resolve No.

71



Relating to the return of human remains from the Smithsonian Institution.

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

WHEREAS the legislature recognizes the equality of all human beings on this earth and their right to be treated with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS this respect is extended to human remains after death; and

WHEREAS, around the turn of the century, military and scientific expeditions collected human remains throughout Alaska, particularly in Native villages along the interior rivers and Northwest Coast; and

WHEREAS the Smithsonian Institution became the final repository for a great number of these human remains; and

WHEREAS the display and storage of these human remains in the Smithsonian Institution is inappropriate and manifests lack of respect for the remains; and

WHEREAS the return of these human remains to relatives or to the sites of origin would be an appropriate act of restitution;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges that the Smithsonian Institution comply in a respectful and timely manner with requests of individuals and tribal organizations for the return of human remains taken from their families and regions in Alaska around the turn of the century.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; Mrs. Reagan, First Lady of the United States; the Honorable Daniel K. Inouye,

Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs; the Honorable Robert McCormick Adams, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.