

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS TAYLOR, Halford, Kelly, Sharp

Introduced: 1/16/95

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to federally held property in those states, including Alaska, admitted to
2 the Union since 1846.

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

4 WHEREAS the founding fathers of this nation recognized that land is power and
5 that a centralized federal government with a substantial land base would eventually
6 overwhelm the states and pose a threat to the freedom of the individual; and

7 WHEREAS the original 13 colonies and the next 15 states admitted to the Union
8 were granted fee title to all land within their borders; and

9 WHEREAS the states admitted to the Union since 1846 were denied the same
10 rights of land ownership granted the states admitted earlier; and

11 WHEREAS art. I, sec. 8, of the Constitution of the United States of America
12 makes no provision for land ownership by the federal government, other than by purchase
13 from the states of land "...for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock-yards, and
14 other needful buildings"; and

15 WHEREAS acting contrary to the provisions of art. I, sec. 8, of the Constitution
16 of the United States, the federal government withheld property from the states admitted

1 since 1846, making them land poor and unable to determine their own land use and
2 development policies; and

3 WHEREAS this action has made those states admitted since 1846 unequal to
4 other states and subject to unwarranted federal control; and

5 WHEREAS restoration of property to which they are historically and
6 constitutionally entitled would empower the land poor states to determine their own land
7 use policies;

8 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the 104th Congress
9 of the United States to right the wrong and to transfer to the states, by fee title, all
10 federally controlled property currently held within the states admitted to the Union since
11 1846; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress is urged to then purchase from the
13 newly empowered States land needed to meet the provision of art. I, sec. 8, United States
14 Constitution.

15 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Strom Thurmond,
16 President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert Dole, Majority Leader
17 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of
18 Representatives; to members of the delegations in Congress of those States admitted to
19 the Union since 1846; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
20 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
21 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.