

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS HALFORD, Green, Taylor, Miller, Sharp, Torgerson, Donley, Leman, Wilken, Ward

Introduced: 4/10/97

Referred: State Affairs

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Requesting the federal government to conduct an audit of the Alaska Native**  
2 **regional corporations to determine their compliance with the Alaska Native Claims**  
3 **Settlement Act and to review the accountability of the corporations to their**  
4 **shareholders.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** the 92nd Congress of the United States adopted the Alaska Native Claims  
7 Settlement Act (ANCSA) on December 18, 1971; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Congress intended the regional corporations created by ANCSA to be  
9 the economic foundation that would allow Alaska Natives to build upon the settlement and  
10 preserve the benefits of the settlement for future generations of Alaska Natives; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Native regional corporations created by ANCSA have never been  
12 audited by the State; and

13 **WHEREAS** Governor Knowles has stated that the State should not and will not audit  
14 Native regional corporations; and

15 **WHEREAS** the open dialogue between the Native regional corporations, their  
16 shareholders, and the state that the Congress intended to promote by exempting the Alaska

1 Native regional corporations from many of the security laws have instead lessened the Native  
2 regional corporations' accountability to their shareholders; and

3 **WHEREAS** the State and federal governments have substantial investments, over  
4 \$1,000,000,000 and 44,000,000 acres of land, in the Alaska Native regional corporations to  
5 settle claims by Native people of Alaska; and

6 **WHEREAS** a call from the Alaska State Senate floor was made for an audit of the  
7 Native regional corporations to find where this money went, why the people did not receive  
8 lands and benefits promised, and why Native people want to return to a failed federal system  
9 in order to get those promises fulfilled; and

10 **WHEREAS** officers of some of the regional corporations make substantial income  
11 while over one-third of their shareholders live at or below the poverty level; and

12 **WHEREAS** ANCSA has apparently failed the Native people of Alaska, and one of  
13 the results of this failure is an outcry by Native people of Alaska for sovereignty; and

14 **WHEREAS** many Alaska Natives feel intentionally disenfranchised by, and  
15 uninformed about, the actions of the regional corporations; and

16 **WHEREAS** Alaska Natives deserve accountability and responsiveness from the  
17 regional corporations that were established by the Congress to assist them in their bid for self-  
18 determination;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the  
20 President and the United States Congress to conduct a multi-year audit of the Alaska Native  
21 regional corporations to determine their compliance with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement  
22 Act and to review their accountability to their shareholders for the over \$1,000,000,000 and  
23 the promises of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the results of the audit should be provided to the  
25 Governor and Legislature of the State of Alaska.

26 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President; the  
27 Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom  
28 Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority  
29 Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas Daschle, Minority Leader of the U.S.  
30 Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the  
31 Honorable Dick Armey, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable

- 1 Richard A. Gephardt, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; and the
- 2 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
- 3 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.