

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS HALFORD, Pete Kelly, Taylor, Wilken, Donley, Ward, Leman, Miller, Pearce, Green

Introduced: 1/27/99

Referred: Resources

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Opposing the closure of the former Mount McKinley portions of Denali National**  
2 **Park and Preserve to snowmachine use.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the National Park Service has proposed the closure of the former Mount  
5 McKinley portion of Denali National Park and Preserve to snowmachine use for up to three  
6 years during which time the agency will study imposition of a permanent closure; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)  
8 authorizes, subject to reasonable regulation, the use of snowmachines and other means of  
9 motorized and nonmotorized access for traditional activities in all conservation system units  
10 created or expanded by that Act; and

11 **WHEREAS** ANILCA and regulations of the National Park Service require the  
12 National Park Service to document actual impacts and present findings that snowmachine use  
13 is detrimental to the resource values of the park and preserve before implementing a closure;  
14 and

15 **WHEREAS** no such findings have been made or presented to the public; and

16 **WHEREAS** the National Park Service, since the passage of ANILCA, has

1 inappropriately restricted the use of snowmachines in the former Mount McKinley portion of  
2 Denali National Park and Preserve through various legally deficient means; and

3       **WHEREAS** the National Park Service has refused to act on requests from  
4 snowmachine groups to develop voluntary measures to limit or restrict snowmachine use  
5 within specific areas for the purpose of minimizing potential conflicts with other uses; and

6       **WHEREAS** any action by the National Park Service to restrict snowmachine use in  
7 the park and preserve without full and complete compliance with the factual and procedural  
8 requirements of ANILCA and its implementing regulations would establish a precedent that  
9 is adverse to access to other conservation system units in Alaska;

10       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the closure of any  
11 portion of Denali National Park and Preserve to snowmachine use until the National Park  
12 Service complies with the full letter and spirit of the Alaska National Interest Lands  
13 Conservation Act and the procedural and factual requirements of the National Park Service  
14 for adopting such closures.

15       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary,  
16 U.S. Department of the Interior; to Robert G. Stanton, Director, National Park Service, U.S.  
17 Department of the Interior; to Steven P. Martin, Superintendent, Denali National Park and  
18 Preserve, National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted  
19 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,  
20 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.