

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Introduced: 2/3/99**

**Referred: House Special Committee on World Trade and State/Federal Relations, Resources**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Opposing the closure of any portion of Denali National Park and Preserve to**  
**2 snowmachine access.**

**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 access 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 has refused to act on requests from

1 snowmachine groups to develop voluntary measures to limit or restrict snowmachine use  
2 within specific areas for the purpose of minimizing potential conflicts with other uses; and

3 **WHEREAS** the National Park Service, since the passage of ANILCA, has  
4 inappropriately restricted the use of snowmachines in the former Mount McKinley portion of  
5 Denali National Park and Preserve through various legally deficient means; and

6 **WHEREAS** the National Park Service has not complied with the full letter and spirit  
7 of ANILCA and the procedural and factual requirements of the National Park Service for  
8 adopting such closures; and

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

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the closure of any  
14 portion of Denali National Park and Preserve to snowmachine access.

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.