

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 59

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/1/00

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

**1 Supporting the passage by the United States Congress of H.R. 3671, the Wildlife
2 and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000.**

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

4 WHEREAS hunters, trappers, and sport fishermen have been the primary supporters
5 of wildlife and fish conservation for more than 50 years; and

6 WHEREAS federal financial support for wildlife and sport fish conservation and
7 restoration has come at the insistence of hunters, trappers, and sport fishermen who supported
8 the establishment of taxes on hunting and fishing equipment and the dedication of the revenue
9 from those taxes to support the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program and the Federal
10 Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program, popularly known as the Pittman-Robertson program
11 and the Dingell-Johnson program, respectively; and

12 WHEREAS, since the inception of the Pittman-Robertson program and the Dingell-
13 Johnson program, billions of dollars have been raised for wildlife and sport fish conservation
14 and restoration programs; and

15 WHEREAS the success of the Pittman-Robertson program and the Dingell-Johnson
16 program is measured by the abundance of wildlife and sport fish in many states and the

1 successful restoration of many species that were threatened or endangered in the past; and

2 **WHEREAS** information has recently come to light that the Clinton Administration and
3 United States Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt have systematically abused funds from
4 the Pittman-Robertson program and the Dingell-Johnson program; and

5 **WHEREAS** the abuse of the Pittman-Robertson program and the Dingell-Johnson
6 program has been documented by career employees of the United States Fish and Wildlife
7 Service and in an audit conducted by the General Accounting Office; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in some instances, the Clinton Administration and United States Secretary
9 of the Interior Bruce Babbitt have attempted to direct funds from the Pittman-Robertson
10 program to an anti-hunting organization in direct contradiction of the purpose of the Pittman-
11 Robertson program; and

12 **WHEREAS** the integrity of the Pittman-Robertson program and the Dingell-Johnson
13 program should be preserved to maintain successful wildlife and sport fish conservation and
14 restoration programs and the heritage of fishing, hunting, and trapping that those programs
15 support; and

16 **WHEREAS** Congressman Don Young of Alaska has introduced H.R. 3671, the
17 Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000, to correct the current
18 abuses of the Pittman-Robertson program and the Dingell-Johnson program and to restore the
19 integrity of those programs;

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature finds that H.R. 3671, the
21 Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000, would correct the
22 current abuses of the Pittman-Robertson program and the Dingell-Johnson program and restore
23 the integrity of those programs; and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that
25 the United States Congress pass H.R. 3671 to restore the integrity of the Pittman-Robertson
26 program and the Dingell-Johnson program.

27 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President
28 Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House
29 of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski,
30 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
31 delegation in Congress.