

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS TAYLOR, Ward

Introduced: 4/8/99

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to the removal of beaver from Washington, D.C.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** the National Park Service is attempting to remove a young solitary beaver
4 from the vicinity of the Potomac Tidal Basin near the national Mall in Washington, D.C.,
5 because the beaver has downed four cherry trees and five white cedar trees; and

6 **WHEREAS** the National Park Service has declared the beaver to be a very evasive
7 and wily tree predator; and

8 **WHEREAS** the beaver is only doing what beaver naturally do; and

9 **WHEREAS** the federal government is reintroducing grey wolves, grizzly bear, lynx,
10 and bald eagles in several states in order to enhance the biological diversity in those states;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS** the return of beaver to Washington, D.C., can only enhance the biological
13 diversity of the nation's capital; and

14 **WHEREAS** the National Park Service is closing Glacier Bay National Park and
15 Preserve to fishing for crabs because the crabs are an essential element of the ecosystem of
16 the park and the long established and sustainable crab fishery is inconsistent with the
17 preservation of natural crab populations; and

1 **WHEREAS** the policy of the National Park Service in Alaska is to remove people
2 rather than the animals when there is a conflict between people and wildlife; and

3 **WHEREAS** Washington, D.C., and the nation as a whole, would benefit from greater
4 efforts on the part of the National Park Service to assist and protect wildlife by excluding
5 people from areas where wildlife is attempting to reestablish a foothold in the nation's capital;

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the
7 National Park Service cease its efforts to remove the beaver from the Potomac Tidal Basin
8 in Washington, D.C., and assist the reestablishment of a healthy beaver population in the
9 nation's capital; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
11 National Park Service to investigate the habitat requirements for beaver in Washington, D.C.,
12 and the adaptations that beaver have made to cope with the unique urban environment of
13 Washington, D.C., establish protected beaver habitat areas in Washington, D.C., and use good
14 science in its actions regarding beaver in Washington, D.C.

15 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President
16 of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Bruce Babbitt,
17 Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, to Robert G. Stanton, Director, National Park
18 Service, U.S. Department of the Interior; to all members of the U.S. Congress; and to the
19 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
20 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.