

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

2001

Source
CSSJR 7(RES)

Legislative
Resolve No.
12



Supporting reinstatement of the United States Department of the Interior directive exempting the United States Bureau of Land Management in Alaska from the mandatory wilderness review process.

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

WHEREAS, in 1980, the United States Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which included sec. 1326, frequently referred to as the "no more clause", prohibiting further executive withdrawals and studies for the specific purpose of creating more conservation units or areas; and

WHEREAS, in sec. 1320, ANILCA expressly exempted the Bureau of Land Management from the sec. 603 wilderness review program of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, the United States Secretary of the Interior issued a directive that prohibited the United States Bureau of Land Management from considering any of the 80,000,000 acres the bureau manages in Alaska for designation as wilderness under the National Wilderness Preservation System; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2001, on one of his last days in office, United States Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt rescinded this 19-year-old directive without public comment or consultation with Alaska; and

WHEREAS the rescission is improper without public comment and the participation of Alaska, is not in the best interests of the state, and should be reinstated by the incoming administration; and

WHEREAS the requirement that all Bureau of Land Management administered roadless tracts of 5,000 or more acres be studied for their wilderness qualities will result in all areas being managed as quasi-wilderness and effectively create a virtual economic barrier;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the rescission of this Department of the Interior directive; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the swift reinstatement of the directive by the administration of President George W. Bush.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Gale Norton, United States Secretary of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.