

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE DYSON**

**Introduced: 1/22/02**

**Referred: Community and Regional Affairs, Resources**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Encouraging the United States Board on Geographic Names to adopt place name**  
2 **changes proposed by the Alaska Historical Commission.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** Alaskans have lived in the land now known as Alaska for at least 10,000  
5 years and perhaps as many as 30,000 years; and

6 **WHEREAS** strangers from other lands have arbitrarily named Alaska geographic  
7 features, disregarding the names commonly used by Alaska Native peoples; and

8 **WHEREAS** some of the names given to geographic features in Alaska do not have a  
9 direct connection with Alaska or its peoples, but instead reflect a stranger's desire to honor a  
10 patron, gain favor with a political figure, or honor a college; and

11 **WHEREAS** Alaska's Native peoples are endeavoring to preserve as much Native  
12 culture and heritage as possible; and

13 **WHEREAS** Alaska historians are trying to preserve Alaska's known history; and

14 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of the Interior is actively collecting and  
15 recording original names from Alaska Native elders and from pioneers; and

16 **WHEREAS** Alaskans desire to honor their Native citizens and traditions and Alaska's

1 pioneers;

2 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United  
3 States Department of the Interior to adopt policies for the United States Board on Geographic  
4 Names that would allow and encourage the board to adopt place name changes proposed by  
5 the Alaska Historical Commission.

6 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Gale Norton, United States  
7 Secretary of the Interior; Roger L. Payne, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic  
8 Names; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.  
9 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska  
10 delegation in Congress.