

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Introduced: 1/24/01**  
**Referred: Resources**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Opposing former United States Secretary of the Interior Babbitt's rescission of a United**  
2 **States Department of the Interior directive prohibiting the United States Bureau of**  
3 **Land Management from considering Alaska land for designation as wilderness and**  
4 **urging the reinstatement of that directive.**

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

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

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11 Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt rescinded this 19-year-old directive without public  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

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

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

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

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