

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES KERTTULA, Crawford

Introduced: 2/16/04
Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to support for the Federal Land Recreational Visitor Protection Act.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** winter recreation activities are an integral part of the Alaska way of life;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS** many of the state's popular winter recreation areas are subject to
6 avalanche danger; and

7 **WHEREAS** highway, city, and railroad maintenance crews, power plant and line
8 workers, loggers, rescue personnel, ski patrollers, and guides are frequently exposed to
9 avalanche danger when houses, highways, and facilities are located in avalanche zones; and

10 **WHEREAS** Alaska has the highest avalanche death rate per capita in the nation; and

11 **WHEREAS** Alaska contains approximately 54,000,000 acres of national parks, which
12 are visited by thousands of people for winter recreation; and

13 **WHEREAS** avalanche danger is a true risk in our national parks to both Alaskans and
14 visitors; and

15 **WHEREAS** there is no avalanche forecasting in most areas of Alaska; and

16 **WHEREAS** Senators Stevens and Murkowski along with senators of other Western

1 states have introduced S. 931, the Federal Land Recreational Visitor Protection Act of 2003;
2 and

3 **WHEREAS** S. 931 directs the United States Secretary of the Interior to establish a
4 coordinated avalanche control program in the National Park System to increase the safety of
5 visitors, recreational users, neighboring communities, and transportation corridors; and

6 **WHEREAS** S. 931 provides for grant funding to assist in the prevention, forecasting,
7 detection, and mitigation of avalanches;

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports efforts by the Alaska
9 congressional delegation to pass the Federal Land Recreational Visitor Protection Act of
10 2003.

11 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Gale Norton, United States
12 Secretary of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa
13 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
14 the Alaska delegation in Congress.