

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY OVERSIGHT

May 1, 2006

5:09 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Gary Stevens, Chair
Senator Thomas Wagoner
Senator Kim Elton
Senator Ben Stevens

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Ralph Seekins, Vice Chair
Senator Con Bunde
Senator Lyman Hoffman

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14(RES)
Urging the United States Congress to pass legislation to convey
land to the University of Alaska.

MOVED SCS CSHJR 14(UOV) OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HJR 14

SHORT TITLE: URGE CONGRESS TO GRANT LAND TO UNIVERSITY

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) ELKINS

03/01/05	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/01/05	(H)	EDU, RES
01/31/06	(H)	EDU AT 11:00 AM CAPITOL 106
01/31/06	(H)	Moved CSHJR 14(EDU) Out of Committee
01/31/06	(H)	MINUTE(EDU)
02/01/06	(H)	EDU RPT CS(EDU) 3DP 4NR
02/01/06	(H)	DP: LYNN, WILSON, NEUMAN;
02/01/06	(H)	NR: SALMON, GATTO, GARA, THOMAS
02/15/06	(H)	RES AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 124
02/15/06	(H)	Moved CSHJR 14(RES) Out of Committee
02/15/06	(H)	MINUTE(RES)
02/17/06	(H)	RES RPT CS(RES) 4DP 3NR
02/17/06	(H)	DP: SEATON, ELKINS, SAMUELS, RAMRAS;
02/17/06	(H)	NR: GATTO, LEDOUX, CRAWFORD
03/03/06	(H)	TRANSMITTED TO (S)

03/03/06 (H) VERSION: CSHJR 14(RES)
03/06/06 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/06/06 (S) UOV, RES
04/24/06 (S) UOV AT 5:00 PM BELTZ 211
04/26/06 (S) UOV AT 5:00 PM BELTZ 211
05/01/06 (S) UOV AT 5:00 PM BELTZ 211

WITNESS REGISTER

James Van Horn, Staff
Representative James Elkins
POSITION STATEMENT: Presented HJR 14 on behalf of the sponsor

Dick Mylius, Director
Division of Mining, Land and Water
Department of Natural Resources
400 Willoughby Ave.
Juneau, AK 99801-1724
POSITION STATEMENT: Available for questions related to HJR 14

Mari Montgomery, Director
Land Management Office
University of Alaska
P.O. Box 755000
Fairbanks, AK 99775
POSITION STATEMENT: Available for questions related to HJR 14

ACTION NARRATIVE

CHAIR GARY STEVENS called the Senate Special Committee On University Oversight meeting to order at [5:09:09 PM](#). Present were Senators Kim Elton, Thomas Wagoner, and Chair Gary Stevens. Senator Ben Stevens arrived during the course of the meeting.

CSHJR 14(RES)-URGE CONGRESS TO GRANT LAND TO UNIVERSITY

CHAIR GARY STEVENS announced HJR 14 to be up for consideration.

[5:09:50 PM](#)

JAMES VAN HORN, Staff to Representative James Elkins, sponsor of HJR 14, said the resolution urges Congress to pass legislation to convey 250,000 acres in federal land to the University of Alaska. As the largest landholder in Alaska it is important that the federal government support the land grant to the University of Alaska to make it financially independent.

SENATOR WAGONER remarked he's unaware of any land grant university in the U.S. that has become financially independent.

Mr. Van Horn clarified this would make the university less dependent on the Legislature for funding.

DICK MYLIUS, Director of the Division of Mining, Land and Water for the Department of Natural Resources, said he was available to answer questions.

MARI MONTGOMERY, Director of the University of Alaska Land Management Office, said she was available to answer questions.

[5:12:59 PM](#)

SENATOR KIM ELTON referenced page 2, line 21 and noted that Gale Norton is no longer the Secretary of the Interior.

SENATOR GARY STEVENS said that is a good point and asked Mr. Van Horn to comment on whether the sponsor would object to changing the reference to the Acting Secretary of the Interior.

[5:15:06 PM](#)

MR. VAN HORN responded he could see no problem with making that change.

CHAIR GARY STEVENS called an at-ease from [5:15:29 PM](#) to [5:18:11 PM](#).

Senator Ben Stevens joined the meeting.

SENATOR ELTON motioned to amend the resolution on page 2, line 21 to read "the Acting United States Secretary of the Interior;" and delete the name "Gale Norton,".

There being no objection Amendment 1 passed.

Senator Wagoner motioned to report SCS CSHJR 14(UOV) from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s). There being no objection, the motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Gary Stevens adjourned the meeting at [5:20:24 PM](#).