

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 6

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES JOHNSON, Stoltze, Hawker, Wilson, Lynn

Introduced: 3/30/07

Referred: Rules

A RESOLUTION

- 1 **Encouraging all states to oppose the decision of the United States Fish and Wildlife**
2 **Service to list the polar bear as a threatened species.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

4 **WHEREAS** the decision of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to pursue
5 listing of the polar bear as a threatened species is based on studies that are limited in scope,
6 are speculative in nature, disregard the views of numerous other scientific studies, do not
7 recognize the health of current polar bear populations, and, instead, favor worst-case
8 predictions for future populations; and

9 **WHEREAS** current polar bear populations are two to three times what they were 30
10 years ago and are successfully managed throughout the Arctic in a sustainable manner under
11 international agreements; and

12 **WHEREAS** listing the polar bear as a threatened species would affect existing
13 international agreements and treaties with Russia, Canada, and other countries; and

14 **WHEREAS** listing the polar bear as a threatened species would affect access by
15 Alaska Natives to polar bears for traditional uses; and

16 **WHEREAS** listing the polar bear as a threatened species would prove detrimental to

1 the economy of the state by delaying the development of natural resources essential to the
2 welfare of the state and the nation as a whole; and

3 **WHEREAS** listing the polar bear as a threatened species would disregard states'
4 rights relative to resource development and thus affect every state in the United States; and

5 **WHEREAS** listing the polar bear as a threatened species would further affect every
6 state in the United States by requiring that every federal process in the nation that involves
7 emissions or any activity related to a decline in polar bear populations be subject to new
8 reviews by the United States Fish and Wildlife service or other government agencies;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives opposes the decision of the
10 United States Fish and Wildlife Service to list the polar bear as a threatened species under the
11 Endangered Species Act of 1973; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives strongly encourages all
13 other states to oppose the decision of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to list the
14 polar bear as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

15 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
16 of the United States; the governors of each of the other 49 states; the presiding officers of the
17 legislatures of each of the other 49 states; the Honorable H. Dale Hall, Director, United States
18 Fish and Wildlife Service; and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa
19 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
20 the Alaska delegation in Congress.