

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES RAUSCHER, Reinbold, Kopp, Millett, Birch, Thompson, Knopp, Talerico, Saddler, Neuman, Eastman, Tilton, Johnson

Introduced: 2/15/17

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs, Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to pass the Improved National Monument**
2 **Designation Process Act.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the President of the United States may "declare by public proclamation
5 historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or
6 scientific interest" as national monuments under the Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431 -
7 433), and the United States Congress may establish national monuments through legislation;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS** the Antiquities Act requires the President of the United States to reserve
10 "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be
11 protected" within the boundaries of the national monument; and

12 **WHEREAS** 157 national monuments have been created, ranging in size from less
13 than an acre to nearly 583,000 square miles spread out across the land and water of the United
14 States; and

15 **WHEREAS** the previous federal Administration unilaterally expanded the scope and
16 boundaries of national monuments; and

1 **WHEREAS** the previous federal Administration established 29 new national
2 monuments between 2009 and 2017; and

3 **WHEREAS** the previous federal Administration was responsible for the largest
4 expansion of an existing national monument when it added, by proclamation, approximately
5 440,000 square miles to the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in 2016; and

6 **WHEREAS** the establishment or expansion of national monuments without
7 consideration of the possible detrimental effects on natural resource development, commercial
8 fishing, tourism, agriculture, and other industries may create considerable hardship on
9 regional, state, and local economies; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the federal
11 government promised the state and people of Alaska that it would maintain in the lands it
12 manages a balance between environmental protection and the economic and social needs of
13 Alaskans and that no more land in the state would be set aside; and

14 **WHEREAS** the president's exercise of power under the Antiquities Act is limited in
15 Alaska by the "no more" clause of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in January 2017, United States Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan
17 Sullivan jointly introduced S. 33, the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act,
18 establishing new requirements and limitations on the authority of the President of the United
19 States to establish or expand national monuments under the Antiquities Act; and

20 **WHEREAS**, under S. 33, the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act,
21 the President of the United States may not establish a national monument unless it is approved
22 by the United States Congress, it is certified to comply with the National Environmental
23 Policy Act of 1969, and the governor of each state in which the proposed national monument
24 will be located provides notice that the state's legislature has enacted legislation approving the
25 designation of the proposed national monument; and

26 **WHEREAS**, under S. 33, the Improved National Monuments Designation Process
27 Act, the governor of each affected state or territory within 100 miles of a proposed marine
28 national monument must be notified; and

29 **WHEREAS** the purposes of the "no more" clause of the Alaska National Interest
30 Lands Conservation Act would be strengthened by the limitations placed on the authority of
31 the President by S. 33, the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act;

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the direct involvement
2 of the United States Congress and the states in the establishment and expansion of national
3 monuments; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
5 Congress to pass S. 33, the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act, so that
6 the use of Alaska's renewable and nonrenewable resources is protected and environmentally
7 responsible resource extraction and development activities may take place.

8 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
9 of the United States; the Honorable Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the United States and
10 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the U.S. House of
11 Representatives; the Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of
12 Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of
13 Representatives; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
14 Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lisa
15 Murkowski, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the
16 Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
17 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 115th United
18 States Congress.