

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MESSRS RENTSCHLER AND  
RUTHERFORD

2

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 16

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

4

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

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TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; THE SECRETARY OF THE

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INTERIOR; THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE DELEGATE

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TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

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Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of

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Alaska, in Twenty-first Regular Session assembled, respectfully

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submits that:

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WHEREAS, the real and permanent economy of any area depends

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on production either of natural resources or of services; and

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WHEREAS, the economy of the territory was long dependent

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upon the fishing industry, which industry consists of the

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utilization of a basic natural resource incident to the Terri-

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tory of Alaska, and is a product of the Territory of Alaska; and

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WHEREAS, under federal control the product of this great

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and basic natural resource has steadily declined as illustrated

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by the statistics of the annual salmon pack during the last

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fifteen years, during which time the pack has diminished from

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over 8,000,000 cases in 1936 to a total of only 3,300,000 cases

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in 1950 which is slightly over one-third the product of fifteen

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years ago, and which trend becomes alarming in view of the fact

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that the amount of the total product is dependent on available

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supply; and

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WHEREAS, repeated studies have shown that the depletion

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of this great and basic resource of the Territory of Alaska is

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due to the mass invasion of territorial waters by non-resident

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fishermen from remote locations such as the states of

1 Washington, Oregon and California; and

2 WHEREAS, the competition from thousands of non-resident  
3 fishermen who reside thousands of miles from Alaska is unfair  
4 because Alaska resident fishermen depend solely for their  
5 livelihood on the taking of fish from Alaskan waters and have  
6 never been able to accumulate the requisite capital to journey  
7 to the waters of the various coastal states of the Union to  
8 compete with fishermen of those states in the fishing industry;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the regulations of the United States Department  
11 of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, despite the recom-  
12 mendations of lifelong Alaskan fishermen acquainted with the  
13 facts of propagation, origin, habitat and cyclomatic processes  
14 of this industry have at all times favored non-resident fishermen  
15 and the highly financed, non-resident fishing industry to the  
16 extent that hardship and privation has resulted to Alaskan  
17 resident fishermen;

18 NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the  
19 Territory of Alaska, respectfully prays that the control of the  
20 fisheries of Alaska be immediately transferred to Alaska to the  
21 end that this great industry may be salvaged under the guidance  
22 and control of Alaskan fishermen familiar with the natural  
23 science of the resource; and that the United States Department  
24 of the Interior take immediate steps in recognition of the moral  
25 and economic rights of Alaskan fishermen to enjoy the right of  
26 livelihood from this diminishing resource prior, and if necessary  
27 to the exclusion of any rights or so called rights of persons  
28 who would otherwise continue to invade the fishing grounds of  
29 Alaska diminishing and depleting this resource so necessary to

1 the survival of a real and permanent basic economy of the  
2 Territory of Alaska,

3 AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.  
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*Added to com from  
Carl Brunsted*