

IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR FOSTER

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 10

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, DIRECTOR OF FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, AND TERRITORIAL DELEGATE TO CONGRESS.

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Twenty-Second Session assembled, respectfully submits that:

WHEREAS, reindeer stations and wildlife refuges withdrawn from public entry by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Fish and Wildlife Service are closed to mining and prospecting in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, these particular withdrawals total more than 8,000,000 acres; and,

WHEREAS, many known deposits of lead and placer gold, strategic and industrial minerals, and coal exist within these withdrawn areas; and,

WHEREAS, in the case of St. Lawrence Island, which is withdrawn as a reindeer station, only approximately 50 head of reindeer exist and more cannot be supported there for 50 to 100 years in the future because of extreme overgrazing in the past and the slow growth of the lichens and moss on which they feed; and,

WHEREAS, mining operations on St. Lawrence Island, which is usually a hardship area, would create employment opportunities for the native Eskimos and aid their economy; and,

WHEREAS, in the case of the large wildlife refuges on

1 Kodiak Island, the Aleutian Islands, and the Kenai Peninsula,
2 orderly prospecting and mining could be carried on without dis-
3 turbing the wildlife under protection and with no conflict with
4 the control or regulations of the Fish and Wildlife Service as
5 to done in some wildlife refuges in the States;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, your Memorialist, the Legislature of the
7 Territory of Alaska, respectfully urges that these withdrawn
8 lands be opened to prospecting and mining by the respective
9 agencies concerned.

10 AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.