

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 5

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 TO THE HONORABLE FRED A. SEATON, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR; THE
6 HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT AND THE HONORABLE ERNEST GRUENING,
7 SENATORS FROM ALASKA, THE HONORABLE RALPH J. RIVERS, REPRESENTATIVE
8 FROM ALASKA; AND THE HONORABLE WILLIAM A. EGAN, GOVERNOR OF ALASKA:

9 Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State of Alaska in
10 First Session assembled, respectfully submits that:

11 WHEREAS, an area of 2,924 square miles in two separate
12 parcels at the mouth of the Koskokwim River in the State of Alaska,
13 has been requested for withdrawal as a wildlife refuge by the U.S.
14 Fish and Wildlife Service; and

15 WHEREAS, of this proposed withdrawal area of one million,
16 eight hundred thousand acres, approximately twenty percent thereof
17 consists of navigable waters of the State; and

18 WHEREAS, the mouth of the Koskokwim River has been histori-
19 cally and is presently an area wherein many of the natives of that
20 part of Alaska find their sustenance and make their living, thus
21 making the possibility of the Federal withdrawal a source of great
22 alarm to the inhabitants of the area; and

23 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Alaska has had no
24 opportunity to study the proposed withdrawal, and therefore, can-
25 not ascertain its likely effects upon the economy and ecology of
26 the State; and

27 WHEREAS, such a withdrawal, affecting such a large area, is
28 certain to have an impact upon the new State of Alaska, the rami-
29 fications of which impact needs must be studied in detail by the

1 elected representatives of the people of Alaska so that an intelli-
2 gent report thereon can be given and so that protest or approval
3 thereof can be effected;

4 NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State
5 of Alaska in First Session assembled respectfully urges, on be-
6 half of the people of Alaska, that any final action on the pro-
7 posed Kuskokwim withdrawal be delayed until the Alaska Legisla-
8 ture has an opportunity to study the proposal in detail and ex-
9 press its views thereon; and that the Department of the Interior,
10 in drawing any withdrawal order, define and delimit the navigable
11 waters of the State of Alaska within such area so that such waters
12 may be eliminated from such project, such waters being, in the
13 opinion of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, not properly
14 subject to such a Federal withdrawal.

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