

1 IN THE SENATE MCNABB AND BRONSON  
2 BY SENATORS HOPSON AND GILBERT

3 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO.18

4 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

5 FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

6 TO THE HONORABLE FRED A. SEATON, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR; THE  
7 HONORABLE DANIEL H. JANZEN, DIRECTOR OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILD-  
8 LIFE, UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE; THE HONORABLE E. L.  
9 BARTLETT AND THE HONORABLE ERNEST GRUENING, SENATORS FROM ALASKA;  
10 AND THE HONORABLE RALPH J. RIVERS, REPRESENTATIVE FROM ALASKA:

11 Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State of Alaska in  
12 First Legislature, First Session assembled respectfully submits  
13 that:

14 WHEREAS, the indigenous population of Alaska's Bering Sea and  
15 Arctic Ocean coasts depend greatly on the hunting of polar bears  
16 for sustenance and livelihood; and

17 WHEREAS, small aircraft in the area have been known to fly  
18 low over ice floes and coastal region for the deliberate purpose of  
19 frightening polar bears sighted from such aircraft; and

20 WHEREAS, such thoughtless harassment of the polar bears causes  
21 them to move to the outward edges of ice floes making them inac-  
22 cessible to the local hunters; and

23 WHEREAS, passengers in such aircraft have also been known to  
24 shoot bears from the air, leaving the carcasses to waste away in  
25 places so treacherous as to preclude salvage by the local resi-  
26 dents; and

27 WHEREAS, such wanton destruction is detrimental to the local  
28 economy and to Alaska's rich wildlife resources; and

29 WHEREAS, under the terms of the statehood act, the federal  
government is still responsible for the regulation of matters

1 concerning the wildlife of Alaska;

2 NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist urges that all appropriate  
3 federal action be taken at an early date to outlaw the practice of  
4 deliberately frightening and hunting polar bears by aircraft.

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