

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR MCNEES

2 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 20

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 TO THE HONORABLE NEIL H. MCELROY, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE; THE
6 HONORABLE FRED A SEATON, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR; THE HONORABLE
7 ROYCE A. HARDY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR FOR MINERAL
8 RESOURCES; THE HONORABLE C. O. MITTENDORF, ADMINISTRATOR, DEFENSE
9 MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION; THE HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT
10 AND THE HONORABLE ERNEST GRUENING, SENATORS FROM ALASKA; THE HON-
11 ORABLE RALPH J. RIVERS, REPRESENTATIVE FROM ALASKA:

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

15 WHEREAS, fluorspar is a vital ingredient in rocket and
16 missile production, providing the most perfect oxidizing agent for
17 such equipment; and

18 WHEREAS, the civilian economy also requires large amounts of
19 fluorspar for the production of steel, aluminum, hydrofluoric acid,
20 atomic energy and flourine gas, bringing the rate of consumption
21 of this mineral to a new high throughout the nation; and

22 WHEREAS, in the midst of this demand market almost all
23 fluorspar mines in the United States have been forced to close
24 because of excessive foreign imports of this mineral; and

25 WHEREAS, such closure is dangerous to both the defense and
26 economy of the nation; and

27 WHEREAS, legislation is now pending in Congress to keep open
28 the United States fluorspar mines by providing a formula dividing
29 the American market between American producers and foreign pro-

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ducers so as to assure continued domestic production; and

WHEREAS, the western area of the United States is rich in fluorspar, particularly the Seward Peninsula area of the State of Alaska;

NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist urges that all possible steps be taken to enact the necessary legislation to keep open American fluorspar mines, assuring a domestic supply and that investigation of the fluorspar potential of Alaska be undertaken.