

Introduced: 2/2/65
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR BLODGETT

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to federal and state

6

action regarding predator control

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in reindeer areas.

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

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WHEREAS, a conflict exists among conservationists, sportsmen,
10 and reindeer herders regarding predator control in reindeer graz-
11 ing areas of northwestern Alaska; and

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WHEREAS, the dispute over predator control threatens to
13 obliterate the reindeer industry; and

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WHEREAS, the problem of the survival of the reindeer is
15 complicated by the fact that migrating caribou often take reindeer
16 with them in their migrations and both species are subject to the
17 predations of wolves; and

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WHEREAS, it appears to be feasible, practical, and logical
19 to keep the domesticated reindeer and the wild caribou separated
20 by building a fence from near the mouth of the Koyuk River on the
21 south coast of the Seward Peninsula to near the mouth of the
22 Buckland River on the north coast of the Seward Peninsula, thereby
23 containing the reindeer on the Seward Peninsula relatively free
24 from the predatory wolves which follow the caribou herds, and
25 preventing the reindeer herds from straying with the migrating
26 caribou herds; and

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WHEREAS, upon the completion of the fence separating the
28 reindeer from the caribou, the predator control program in the
29 Kotzebue area can be suspended until the balance of nature is

SJR 11

1 again realized;

2 BE IT RESOLVED that a joint conference of state and federal
3 game and wildlife authorities be held on the predator control
4 problem in consultation with reindeer herders, sportsmen groups,
5 and game guides, and that, pending the development of a coordi-
6 nated program, the following action be taken by the appropriate
7 agencies:

8 (1) The protective fence suggested in this resolution
9 be installed across the Seward Peninsula, under the Accelerated
10 Public Works Program;

11 (2) The state Department of Fish and Game continue its
12 contractual arrangements with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
13 for predator control in and adjacent to the reindeer grazing
14 areas at St. Michael, Stebbins, Unalakleet, Kotzebue, and the
15 Seward Peninsula;

16 (3) The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintain a per-
17 petual predator control program in the St. Michael-Stebbins-
18 Unalakleet area; and

19 (4) The Department of Fish and Game, the U. S. Fish and
20 Wildlife Service, and the reindeer herders be responsible for
21 predator control on the Seward Peninsula and act only when the
22 number of predatory wolves increase in number sufficient to
23 jeopardize the reindeer; and be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be directed
25 to the Honorable William A. Egan, Governor of Alaska; the Honor-
26 able Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable
27 Philleo Nash, U. S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs; the Honorable
28 Clarence F. Pautzke, Commissioner, Fish and Wildlife Service; the
29 Honorable Walter F. Kirkness, Commissioner, Department of Fish and
SJR 11

1 Game; and the members of the Alaska Delegation in Congress.
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