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Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE SENATE

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2 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 14

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to relocation of the village
6 of Kwigillingok.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

8 WHEREAS the Village of Kwigillingok is only slightly higher than the
9 level of the high tide mark; and

10 WHEREAS Kwigillingok has suffered from severe flooding in times past;
11 and

12 WHEREAS the floodings seem to have intensified since the earthquake of
13 1964; and

14 WHEREAS during times of winter flooding, in addition to salt water,
15 great chunks of ice two feet thick and weighing tons are brought up to and
16 in the village and these same chunks have the potential of crushing the
17 homes and destroying human and animal life; and

18 WHEREAS the most recent flood, February 6, 1967, was within six inches
19 from flooding the Bureau of Indian Affairs school which is on some of the
20 highest ground in the village and many houses were flooded and suffered
21 water damage; furniture, bedding and clothing were damaged; oil drums and
22 oil storage tanks were damaged and floated away; electricity generators
23 were under water; 30-40 dogs were drowned; many food caches for humans and
24 dogs were filled and contaminated by the salt water; and

25 WHEREAS most of the fresh water tundra lakes were rendered im potable
26 due to the salt water contamination and this required the location of new
27 sources of drinking water in the form of uncontaminated lakes which can
28 only be found by "guessing" at their location and digging through five to
29 six feet of snow again and again until their definite position is

1 ascertained; these new water sites being further removed and in con-
2 centric circles five miles or more from the villages; the drinking material
3 being in the form of ice which must be chipped into varying sizes and trans-
4 ported by snow power sleds of dog team to the cabins where the chips are
5 melted into drinking and washing water; and

6 WHEREAS the people have indicated to various federal and state
7 agencies of their desire to move to a new location approximately twenty
8 miles down the coast to a site that is about twenty feet higher and have
9 sought help for this move; and

10 WHEREAS at present, movement of the village is being effected by stages
11 of cutting houses in half, moving half to the new site and leaving the
12 other half for the family to live in while the children go to school; and

13 WHEREAS the aforementioned conditions seriously endanger the life,
14 property and welfare of 350 Alaska men, women and children;

15 BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct
16 appropriate agencies to aid the people of Kwigillingok in their need for
17 planning and relocation; and to request the Alaska State Housing Authority
18 to give Kwigillingok top priority and consideration with regard to Senator
19 Bartlett's recently enacted housing program.

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