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Referred: Resources and  
State Affairs

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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 57

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the violation of the fish  
6 and game regulations by the commission-  
7 er and deputy commissioner of fish and  
8 game.

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

10 WHEREAS the State of Alaska hires highly qualified men to be the admin-  
11 istrative officers of the state departments and to advise the Governor on  
12 matters relating to their fields of expertise; and

13 WHEREAS the integrity of these commissioners is of the utmost importance,  
14 in that the confidence and the trust of the people of the state in their  
15 government is dependent on the decisions these men make; and

16 WHEREAS Warren Gonnason, the former commissioner of highways, was dis-  
17 charged from his office by the Governor after he purchased a resident fish-  
18 ing license while he was still a nonresident, in violation of the state fish  
19 and game regulations; and

20 WHEREAS the current commissioner of fish and game, through his deputy  
21 commissioner, Loren Croxton, has violated the fish and game regulations at  
22 least eight times by allowing hunters to take wolves by the use of a heli-  
23 copter, having knowledge that the use of helicopters for hunting was a  
24 violation of the fish and game regulations of the state; and

25 WHEREAS the wolves taken in violation of the fish and game regulations  
26 of the state were illegally taken and bountied, and therefore the \$50 per wolf  
27 paid to the hunters was illegal; and

28 WHEREAS these violations were committed several months ago and although  
29 the Alaska State Senate investigated the conduct of the Department of Fish

1 and Game officials and called their misconduct to the attention of the public,  
2 the Governor and the commissioner of fish and game and nothing has been done  
3 to remove the commissioner and his deputy commissioner; and

4 WHEREAS Calvin Coolidge once said: "It is the duty of a citizen not  
5 only to observe the law but to let it be known that he is opposed to its  
6 violation" and it would seem like the citizens of the state have a right to  
7 expect as much from their elected officials and those in offices of public  
8 trust;

9 BE IT RESOLVED that the Sixth State Legislature requests the Governor  
10 to show his interest in the rights of the people and discharge both Augie  
11 Reetz and Loren Croxton for having violated the fish and game regulations of  
12 the State of Alaska, as well as the trust of the people, by issuing permits  
13 to hunt wolves by helicopter and then paying the taxpayers' money for the  
14 bounties on the wolves.