

Introduced: 3/25/69  
Referred: Rules

BY RETTIG, ANDERSON, BEIRNE,  
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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to conservation and wilderness  
6 areas in Alaska.

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

8 WHEREAS reports indicate that great concern for Alaska's wilderness  
9 areas has been expressed by members and officials of the Sierra Club;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS the Sierra Club has been in existence for 77 years and has  
12 enjoyed direction by the same executive officer for the past 17 of those  
13 years; and

14 WHEREAS, during the life of the Sierra Club, the State of California  
15 and other similarly developed states have experienced great progress in in-  
16 dustrial growth, such as hydro-power, manufacturing, refining, agriculture,  
17 food processing, wine production, lumbering, electronics, aircraft manufactur-  
18 ing, mining, and many other job producing achievements to meet the needs of  
19 a burgeoning population; and

20 WHEREAS conservation and wilderness areas in such states have been  
21 sacrificed in the name of progress to create jobs, leisure, wealth, education,  
22 homes and a good life for millions of people, including members and officials  
23 of the Sierra Club; and

24 WHEREAS, during the life of the Sierra Club, wilderness areas have been  
25 brazenly invaded and even erased by the development of dams, irrigation  
26 facilities, logging, hotels and inns, bridges, pipelines and freeways to  
27 satisfy the growing needs of people; and

28 WHEREAS, in the recent years of the life of the Sierra Club, these  
29 areas of great economic and population growth have suffered the indignities

1 of air pollution, water pollution, slum conditions, drug problems, crime,  
2 civil disorders and riots; and

3 WHEREAS it occurs to this body that the officials of the Sierra Club  
4 may find an outlet for their energies, their talents and their wealth by  
5 busying themselves in solving the innumerable problems of other areas as  
6 well as the club's own management problems; and

7 WHEREAS Alaska contains 576,000 square miles or more than 375 million  
8 acres, by flat measurement, which is an area more than twice as large as  
9 Texas and five times as large as California; and

10 WHEREAS Alaska has more than 34,000 miles of coastline and unmeasured  
11 millions of square miles of continental shelf and is the only state of the  
12 Union bordered by three seas and two oceans; and

13 WHEREAS Alaska has glaciers larger than some states, the highest  
14 mountains of North America, great rivers, lakes and waterways, and scenic  
15 wonders of such magnitude that no man could ever view them all; and

16 WHEREAS most of Alaska, because of its very character, must forever  
17 remain in wilderness status; and

18 WHEREAS, to fulfill the needs of its small population, Alaska must  
19 strive to make its few utilizable acres as productive as sound conservation  
20 practices will permit; and

21 WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature feels that it, together with the  
22 governor, be he from either political party, can manage its small productive  
23 area without the kind offers of help so generously tendered by those who  
24 must share the responsibility for the tragic conditions that have developed  
25 elsewhere;

26 BE IT RESOLVED that the officers and directors of the Sierra Club are  
27 commended for their deep concern for Alaska's wilderness areas; and be it

28 FURTHER RESOLVED that each of the members of the Sierra Club are by  
29 this Resolution cordially invited to visit this great land and share with us

1 the enjoyment of our untouched perpetual wilderness areas, to view our vast  
2 scenic wonders, clear blue skies unobscured by the tragic smog of the cities,  
3 to breathe our pure air, to drink deeply of our clean, cold water, to fish  
4 and sail our cool blue channels, our inlets and fjords, to scale our moun-  
5 tains, to hike and camp along our forest trails and to explore our vast  
6 unknowns; and be it

7       FURTHER RESOLVED that the officers and directors of the Sierra Club are  
8 urged to turn to their own yet unsolved problems, to permit us to learn and  
9 profit from the experience and errors of others and to allow us the dignity  
10 of self-management.

11       COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to Dr. Edgar Wayburn, President;  
12 Paul Brooks, Vice-President; Phillip Berry, Secretary; William Siri,  
13 Treasurer; Patrick Goldsworthy, Director; and to Michael McClesky, Conserva-  
14 tion Director; to the Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of the Department  
15 of the Interior; to the Honorable Keith H. Miller, Governor of the State of  
16 Alaska; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S.  
17 Senators, and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative, members  
18 of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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