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Referred: Health, Welfare and
Education and Local Government

BY BANFIELD, BEIRNE, BOARDMAN,
ELIASON, KAY, KERTTULA, METCALF,
MILLER, PERATROVICH, SACKETT,
SCHWAMM AND YOUNG

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 53

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Urging the passage of S. 413, author-
6 izing the Secretary of Agriculture to
7 cooperate with and furnish assistance
8 to states, local governments and
9 others in establishing a system for
10 prevention and control of fires in
11 rural areas.

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

13 WHEREAS in 1967, by sampling 24 states, the National Fire Prevention
14 Association determined that Alaska had the greatest number of deaths by fire
15 per million population, 79, and the second largest amount per person fire
16 loss, \$13.42, which is \$6.40 above the sampling average; and

17 WHEREAS the average number of fire fatalities per 100,000 population
18 over a five year period in Alaska shows that the native population suffered
19 almost three times the fatalities of the nonnative population; and

20 WHEREAS a substantial proportion of the fires in Alaska occurred in rural
21 areas or in towns and villages of under 5,500 population where most of the
22 native population resides and there are few, if any, fire prevention programs
23 and there is very little firefighting equipment; and

24 WHEREAS S.413 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with
25 and furnish financial and other assistance to states, public bodies and organ-
26 izations in establishing a system for the prevention, control and suppression
27 of fires in rural areas and in towns of under 5,500 population; and

28 WHEREAS the program set forth in the bill would be a great benefit to
29 the people of this state and would serve to drastically reduce the tragic loss

1 of human life and property by fire;

2 BE IT RESOLVED that the Sixth Legislature of the State of Alaska supports
3 S. 413 and respectfully urges that Congress pass it.

4 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard B.
5 Russell, President Pro Tempore of the Senate; the Honorable John W. McCormack,
6 Speaker of the House; the Honorable Allen J. Ellender, Chairman of the Senate
7 Agriculture and Forestry Committee; the Honorable W. R. Poage, Chairman of
8 the House Agriculture Committee; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
9 Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock,
10 U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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