

Introduced: 3/11/70
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 108

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Requesting the establishment of an
6 estuarine research center at Douglas,
7 Alaska.

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

9 WHEREAS the combination of existing fisheries with suitable study areas
10 make Southeast Alaska an ideal location for a major subarctic estuarine
11 research center; and

12 WHEREAS, because the myriad of islands, inlets, fjords and small and
13 large rivers of the region constitute one enormous subarctic estuarine environ-
14 ment and the depth of many of the fjords provide a direct and nearby connec-
15 tion with oceanic waters, many large protected areas have a combination of
16 an estuarine habitat with a nearby deep marine environment comparable with
17 that over the continental shelf; and

18 WHEREAS, because many species which are fished or mature offshore uti-
19 lize these estuaries for spawning as well as nursery areas, the region
20 sustains a multimillion dollar fishing industry including salmon, halibut,
21 herring, shrimp, crab and other shellfish; and

22 WHEREAS the wide variety of environments and marine species available
23 to a Southeastern Alaska estuarine laboratory would lend themselves to
24 several possible research programs, both basic and applied, including marine
25 ecology, the role of estuaries in oceanic productivity, aquaculture and
26 experimental ecosystems; and

27 WHEREAS a laboratory for estuarine studies in Southeastern Alaska would
28 have application to a wide variety of projects of direct national interest
29 and indirect benefits would accrue to existing fisheries in the area; and

1 WHEREAS the most reasonable location for such a center would be at
2 Douglas, Alaska, since the Douglas Marine Station, which is currently in opera-
3 tion, could be expanded into such a research center with the additional
4 advantage of close proximity to the Auke Bay Biological Laboratory of the
5 Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, the State of Alaska Department of Fish and
6 Game and the Institute of Northern Forestry which all engage in allied fields
7 of research providing cross-disciplinary exchanges and a congenial environ-
8 ment for the scientific and technical personnel of the proposed center;

9 BE IT RESOLVED that the U. S. Department of the Interior and the
10 State of Alaska are respectfully requested to take all steps necessary
11 to establish a vitally needed estuarine research center at Douglas, Alaska.

12 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Walter J.
13 Hickel, Secretary, Department of the Interior, the Regents of the University
14 of Alaska, the Honorable Harry L. Rietze, Regional Director, Bureau of
15 Commercial Fisheries; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike
16 Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U.S. Representa-
17 tive, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.