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Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY CHRISTIANSEN

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 39

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Requesting the Secretary of the Interior

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to rescind the action withdrawing certain

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public land for wildlife refuges.

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

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WHEREAS Public Land Order 4588 of the Department of the Interior of

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January 20, 1969 established the Cape Newenham National Wildlife Refuge and

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withdrew lands which the residents of Goodnews Bay, Platinum and Togiak use

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as their normal hunting and fishing grounds; and

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WHEREAS Public Land Order 4584 of the Department of the Interior of

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January 20, 1969 made additions to the Clarence Rhodes National Wildlife

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Range and withdrew land which the residents of the villages of Hamilton,

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Kotlik, Bill Moores, Kwiguk, Emmonak, Tsulunarvik, Alakanuk, Sheldon Point,

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Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Chevak, Newtok, Tanunak, Nightmute, Tooksook,

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Chefornak and Kipnuk use as their normal hunting and fishing grounds; and

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WHEREAS these adjacent areas possess outstanding wildlife and other

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resources upon which the residents of these areas depend for their livelihood

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and existence; and

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WHEREAS these same residents maintain spring and fall hunting camps in

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these areas to serve them in their necessary pursuits; and

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WHEREAS the Department of the Interior at any time may revoke the

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temporary granting of hunting rights in these areas and deprive these resi-

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dents of their traditional subsistence and livelihood; and

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WHEREAS a thirty-day notification of this proposed action brought

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strenuous opposition from residents of these areas but no recognition of the

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feelings of Alaska residents was given by the Department of the Interior

1 before the land withdrawal; and

2 WHEREAS the protests of these residents were never regarded by con-
3 ducting public hearings before the acquisition of these vast tracts of land;
4 and

5 WHEREAS this withdrawal of land prohibits the economic development of
6 this vast area and prevents the establishment of industries to add to the
7 economy which could have tended to alter the subsistence level living and
8 future intent of the people of this area; and

9 WHEREAS public lands should not be withdrawn in such an autocratic and
10 irresponsible way by the Department of the Interior without proper hearings
11 and regard for the rights and needs of the surrounding areas; and

12 WHEREAS this land withdrawal certainly showed disregard for normal land
13 withdrawal procedures;

14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Sixth State Legislature that the Secretary of the
15 Interior is requested to rescind the action of the previous administration
16 in the withdrawal of these public lands from the public domain.

17 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.
18 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Walter J. Hickel,
19 Secretary of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
20 Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S.
21 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.