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BY SPECKING, BRADNER, GUESS,
HAUGEN, MELAND, MOSES, SWANSON,
TILLION AND WHITTAKER

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the preservation of
6 whales.

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

8 WHEREAS, but for the insatiability of the world's whalers during the
9 past two decades, the sustainable yield today is but a shadow of what it
10 could be if the stocks were given the opportunity to rebuild; and

11 WHEREAS this fact is particularly illustrated by the fact that the
12 harvest in the antarctic fishery has dropped in a dozen years from two-thirds
13 of the total catch to one-tenth; and

14 WHEREAS the quotas receiving tacit, if not explicit approval by the
15 International Whaling Commission have contributed to the decimation of the
16 antarctic fishery and unless conservation measures are immediately acted
17 upon, the Pacific and arctic fisheries will also be destroyed; and

18 WHEREAS, as an example of the latter statement, this year's quota set
19 by the North Pacific Commissioners for sperm whale is 240 per cent of the
20 sustainable yield as estimated by reputable scientists; and

21 WHEREAS all of these facts lead to the fact that unless stringent
22 measures are taken at once by the various whaling countries in concert,
23 all species of the great whales may very well be extinct in the immediate
24 future;

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the International
26 Whaling Commission immediately take action to prevent the further decimation
27 of the great whales of the world, including the setting of quotas based on
28 a scientific sustainable yield principle, and the implementation of the
29 proposed International Observer Scheme; and be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED that as a unilateral conservation measure the
2 Secretary of the Department of the Interior is urgently requested to retain
3 all eight of the great whale species on the endangered species list, these
4 being the Bowhead, Right, Blue, Humpback, Gray, Finback, Sei and Sperm
5 whales.

6 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.
7 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton,
8 Secretary, Department of the Interior; members of the International Whaling
9 Commission; the governments of the Soviet Union, Japan, Peru, South Africa,
10 Norway, Canada, Australia and Spain; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and
11 the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich,
12 U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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