

Introduced: 3/3/71
Referred: Resources

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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, the sustainable harvest of great whales today is but a small
9 fraction of what it could be if those stocks were given the opportunity
10 to rebuild; and

11 WHEREAS this fact is particularly illustrated by the fact that the
12 harvest of whales in the antarctic region has dropped in a dozen years
13 from two-thirds 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 whale resource and unless conservation measures are immediately
17 acted upon, the Pacific and arctic whale resources will also be destroyed;
18 and

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

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

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

1 proposed International Observer Scheme; and be it

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

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