

Introduced: 3/8/71
Referred: State Affairs and
Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY FINK, COLLETTA AND
RANDOLPH

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 44

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to an environmental impact
6 report on Native land claims legis-
7 lation.

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

9 WHEREAS the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 has as its over-
10 riding purpose the creation of and maintaining of conditions under which
11 man and nature can exist in productive harmony, thus fulfilling the social,
12 economic and other requirements of present and future generations of
13 Americans; and

14 WHEREAS under the provisions of the Act all agencies of the federal
15 government are required to make a report or recommendations on all proposals
16 for legislation which may significantly affect the quality of the human
17 environment; and

18 WHEREAS the report called for in this federal Act is to specifically
19 include (1) the environmental impact of the proposed action; (2) any adverse
20 environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be
21 implemented; (3) alternatives to the proposed action; (4) the relationship
22 between local short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and
23 enhancement of long-term productivity; and (5) any irreversible and
24 irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in the propose
25 action should it be implemented; and

26 WHEREAS the various Native land claims proposals pending before Congress,
27 including the recommendations on the settlement from the Department of the
28 Interior any one of which may be enacted at an early date, would have an
29 unknown effect on the physical and personal environment of all Alaskans; and

1 WHEREAS under the federal Act the federal agency which has jurisdiction
2 by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact which
3 may be involved in any proposed legislation is to consult with the appropri-
4 ate federal, state and local agencies; and

5 WHEREAS as of the present time there has been no environmental impact
6 report published regarding any of the various Native land claims proposals,
7 nor, to the best of our knowledge, has any federal official consulted with
8 the state regarding the environmental impact of the Native land claims
9 proposals; and

10 WHEREAS any Native land claims that may be approved by Congress will
11 affect the physical and cultural future of thousands of Alaskans for genera-
12 tions to come;

13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that the Department of the
14 Interior is respectfully requested to issue and make public at the earliest
15 possible time an environmental impact statement on the various Native land
16 claims proposals, said report to follow faithfully the dictates of the
17 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

18 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.
19 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton,
20 Secretary of the Department of the Interior; the Honorable Henry M. Jackson,
21 U. S. Senator and Chairman of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs
22 Committee; the Honorable Wayne N. Aspinall, U. S. Representative and Chairman
23 of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; and to the Honorable
24 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable
25 Nick Begich, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in
26 Congress.

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