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Referred: Resources and
State Affairs

1 IN THE HOUSE

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SPECKING AND TILLION

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 90

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to full implementation of
6 the Alaska Statehood Act.

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

8 WHEREAS on January 3, 1959, Alaska was formally admitted into the Union
9 on an equal footing with the other states, thus ending a near century of
10 paternalistic rule by the federal government; and

11 WHEREAS, under the terms of the Alaska Statehood Act, the state was
12 granted the right to select 103 million acres of land, to have and to hold
13 on behalf of all her people; and

14 WHEREAS, although Alaska was granted 25 years within which to select
15 the acreage it desired, the Secretary of the Interior, eight years after
16 statehood, imposed the legally questionable "land freeze", thereby stifling
17 further implementation of this portion of the Statehood Act; and

18 WHEREAS the restriction on further land selection effectively pre-
19 vented the growth of Alaska's economic base and denied its people the
20 freedom and dignity that the sovereignty granted by statehood was to
21 accomplish; and

22 WHEREAS the recent passage of the Native Claims Settlement Act by the
23 United States Congress had the additional salutary effect of removing the
24 so-called "land freeze", allowing the state to proceed with implementation
25 of the Statehood Act; and

26 WHEREAS in recent days Governor William A. Egan has announced the
27 selection of all but a small portion of the balance of the 103 million acres
28 the state is entitled to; and

29 WHEREAS the Governor's action has been hailed by citizens throughout

1 the state, including a strong endorsement by the President of the Alaska
2 Federation of Natives; and

3 WHEREAS all Alaskans will now have the opportunity to enjoy the economic
4 and social benefits which is their rightful entitlement as citizens of a
5 sovereign state;

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that its members hereby express
7 their most ardent support and approval of Governor William A. Egan's forth-
8 right and timely action in selecting the lands to which we have long been
9 entitled; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Interior is respectfully
11 requested to consult and confer with the appropriate officials of the State
12 of Alaska prior to making any final decisions regarding the lands to be
13 withdrawn under the Native Claims Settlement Act by the Department; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that by passage of this
15 resolution it pledges to the Governor that it will support the appropriation
16 of any money necessary to present and defend the action of the administration
17 in making the selection determinations in any judicial proceeding which may
18 come about, as the action taken is in the best interest of the state and its
19 people.

20 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.
21 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable John N. Mitchell, Attor-
22 ney General of the United States; the Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary,
23 Department of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
24 Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich, U.S. Representative,
25 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.