

Original sponsors: Fink, Banfield,
Colletta, et al

Offered: 2/7/72
Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 90

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to implementation of

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the Alaska Statehood Act.

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

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WHEREAS on January 3, 1959, Alaska was formally admitted into the Union

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on an equal footing with the other states; and

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WHEREAS, under the terms of the Alaska Statehood Act, the state was

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granted the right to select 103 million acres of land, to have and to hold

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on behalf of all her people; and

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WHEREAS, although Alaska was granted 25 years within which to select

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the acreage it desired, the Secretary of the Interior, eight years after

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statehood, imposed a "land freeze", thereby delaying further implementation

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of that portion of the Statehood Act; and

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WHEREAS the restriction on further land selection affected the growth

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of Alaska's economic base and denied its people the freedom and dignity that

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the sovereignty granted by statehood was to accomplish; and

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WHEREAS the recent passage of the Native Claims Settlement Act by the

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United States Congress had the salutary effect of removing the so-called

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"land freeze", allowing the state to continue the implementation of the

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Statehood Act; and

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WHEREAS in recent days Governor William A. Egan has announced the

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selection of all but a small portion of the balance of the 103 million acres

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the state is entitled to; and

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

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the state, including a strong endorsement by the President of the Alaska

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Federation of Natives; and

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

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that its members hereby
5 express their support and approval of Governor William A. Egan's forthright
6 and timely action in selecting the lands to which we have long been entitled
7 and be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Interior is respectfully
9 requested to consult and confer with the appropriate officials of the State
10 of Alaska before making any final decisions regarding the lands to be with-
11 drawn under the Native Claims Settlement Act by the Department.

12 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.
13 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton,
14 Secretary, Department of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and
15 the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich,
16 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.