

Original sponsors: Fink, Banfield,
Colletta, et al

Offered: 2/7/72
Referred: State Affairs

CS - Resources Committee

1 IN THE HOUSE BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE

2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 90

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to 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; and

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

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

17 WHEREAS the restriction on further land selection affected the growth
18 of Alaska's economic base and denied its people the freedom and dignity that
19 the sovereignty granted by statehood was to accomplish; and

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

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

27 WHEREAS the Governor's action has been hailed by citizens throughout
28 the state, including a strong endorsement by the President of the Alaska
29 Federation of Natives; and

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.