

Original sponsor: Resources Committee

Offered: 3/16/72
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 119

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Requesting the immediate cessation

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of new route construction in the

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Blair Lakes area and the issuance of

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an environmental impact statement

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on all further improvements to the

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Blair Lakes bombing range.

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

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WHEREAS of major concern to all Alaskans is the perpetuation of fish

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and game and the protection of its habitat; and

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WHEREAS the Blair Lakes bombing and gunnery range, established in 1941,

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is a vast land and water area stretching from Wood River in the west to

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Little Delta in the east; and

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WHEREAS, since its establishment, bombing activities and other opera-

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tions within the confines of the range have caused almost annual forest

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fires, resulting in senseless destruction in this great natural area with

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attendant severe air pollution; and

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WHEREAS, along with other accidents, aircraft bombing operations have

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caused the City of Fairbanks to be showered with no less than 19 live rockets;

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and

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WHEREAS presently new routing construction is being undertaken in the

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range, largely unnoticed by the public, which is following the historical

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Bonnefield Trail and destroying additional valuable land, in distance approxi-

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mately one-tenth the length of the proposed trans-Alaska pipeline;

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BE IT RESOLVED that the Seventh Alaska State Legislature requests the

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immediate cessation of all trail or road construction routes to the Blair

1 Lakes bombing range; and be it

2 FURTHER RESOLVED that any future improvements or access in the range be
3 preceded by comprehensive environmental impact statements, including but
4 not limited to, consideration of alternate sites in more remote areas in
5 Alaska or Canada by contract or treaty.

6 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.
7 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Russell E. Train,
8 Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality; Dr. Robert C. Seamans, Jr.,
9 Secretary, Department of the Air Force; Col. E. H. Ambrose, Commander,
10 Eielson Air Force Base; Col. A. C. Mathews, District Engineer, U.S. Army
11 Corps of Engineers, Alaska District; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
12 Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich, U.S.
13 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; the Honorable
14 William A. Egan, Governor of Alaska; and the Honorable Charles F. Herbert,
15 Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

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