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1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to settlement of the Alaska
6 Native land claims.

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

8 WHEREAS the Alaska Legislature, in enacting the Alaska Native Land
9 Claims State Settlement Act of 1968, AS 38.30, has declared the state's
10 policy "to join with the federal government in a legislative effort to pro-
11 vide a fair, speedy and equitable method for the settlement and satisfaction
12 of the Alaska Native land claims", and proposed a program of joint federal
13 and state legislative action to settle the land claims; and

14 WHEREAS the immediate need for a fair and just settlement of the land
15 claims is of the utmost importance to and is in the best interests of every
16 Alaskan, whether the basis of his concern or motivation is justice, legality,
17 the state's social or economic welfare, or otherwise; and

18 WHEREAS a generous federal grant of land and money to the Alaska
19 Natives, in compensation for rights extinguished by legislation, is essential
20 to meaningfully provide them the option of joining the social and economic
21 mainstream of Alaskan life; and

22 WHEREAS the United States Department of the Interior has established
23 a "freeze" on the transfer of lands in Alaska until June 30, 1971 to allow
24 time for Congressional action to settle the land rights of the Alaska
25 Natives; and

26 WHEREAS, although the state recognizes that Congress has historically
27 assumed the responsibility for settling land claims, the legislature never-
28 theless anticipates making a reasonable state contribution to the settlement;

29 BE IT RESOLVED that the Seventh Alaska State Legislature, in recognition

1 of the vital importance of this issue to Alaska, indeed to all of the United
2 States, strongly urges the Congress of the United States to enact a fair,
3 generous and early settlement of the Alaska Native land claims.

4 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.
5 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Spiro T. Agnew, Vice
6 President of the United States; the Honorable Fred Russell, Acting Secretary
7 of the Interior; the Honorable Henry M. Jackson, U. S. Senator and Chairman,
8 Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U. S. Senate; the Honorable
9 Wayne N. Aspinall, U. S. Representative and Chairman, Committee on Interior
10 and Insular Affairs, U. S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable
11 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable
12 Nick Begich, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in
13 Congress.