

Introduced: 5/4/71  
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY HAMMOND

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 46

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Urging the defeat of S. 1315 as  
6 presently drafted.

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

8 WHEREAS the intent of S.1315 which prohibits the killing or importation  
9 of polar bears and certain marine pelagic mammals, including whales, seals,  
10 sea otters, porpoises, walrus and sea lions, is admirable, the direct  
11 consequences for Alaska would be disastrous, with little or no beneficial  
12 effect for the species involved; and

13 WHEREAS, unlike other areas to which the bill is addressed, Alaska's  
14 populations of the species prohibited by S. 1315 are not endangered, clearly  
15 manageable, and provide an important cultural and economic need for many  
16 of its residents; and

17 WHEREAS the prohibition of state-controlled harvest of sea otter may  
18 necessarily reduce future efforts to transplant the animals from their  
19 present habitat; and

20 WHEREAS the state must, for adequate management purposes, be able to  
21 allow limited harvesting, as well as biologically necessary predator control  
22 programs; and

23 WHEREAS complete elimination of the federally controlled fur seal  
24 harvests in the Pribilof Islands, not presently causing any decline in the  
25 over-all population, could result in uncontrolled harvesting of that species  
26 by all nations on the high seas, thereby assuring its extinction;

27 BE IT RESOLVED that the Seventh Alaska State Legislature respectfully  
28 urges that S. 1315 in its present form be withdrawn or defeated as consti-  
29 tuting a danger and serious misdirection not only to Alaska and its

1 inhabitants, but to the very species which its seeks to protect; and be it

2 FURTHER RESOLVED that S. 1315 be amended by substituting for its  
3 harvest prohibitions, a sound and generously funded research program which  
4 would explore, in a comprehensive manner, the present populations of marine  
5 mammals in all the coastal states with a view toward implementing measures  
6 by which these species could be best protected and managed in the future.

7 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.  
8 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Spiro T. Agnew, Vice  
9 President and President of the Senate; the Honorable Carl Albert, Speaker  
10 of the House of Representatives; the Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton,  
11 Secretary, Department of the Interior; the Honorable Warren G. Magnuson,  
12 Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and  
13 the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich,  
14 U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.