

Introduced: 3/2/72  
Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
BY REQUEST

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 59

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to pending federal legis-  
6 lation pertaining to protection of  
7 ocean mammals.

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

9 WHEREAS legislation is pending before the United States Senate which  
10 has as its stated purpose the protection of ocean mammals; and

11 WHEREAS, although the basic intent of this legislation may be praise-  
12 worthy, there is a grave danger that passage of present proposals would work  
13 a severe hardship for many of Alaska's peoples who must depend for their  
14 very existence on ocean mammals; and

15 WHEREAS under the terms of pending legislation persons would allegedly  
16 be permitted to hunt ocean mammals for subsistence living by traditional  
17 means and so long as waste did not occur, but not for any commercial end; and

18 WHEREAS what is meant by this language is not clear and has not been  
19 made clear in hearings held to date; and

20 WHEREAS hundreds of Alaskans depend on the ocean mammals for  
21 subsistence, and subsistence dependence goes far beyond the food utilization,  
22 such as the making of clothes and goods which are worn or sold to form the  
23 only economy of many villages; and

24 WHEREAS these Alaskans directly affected by passage of this far-reaching  
25 legislation have not had full opportunity to testify regarding the full  
26 impact of the pending legislation upon their social and economic well-being;

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that the United States Senate  
28 Subcommittee on Oceans and Atmosphere is urgently requested to hold further  
29 public hearings on the proposed legislation which would afford Alaskans

1 the opportunity to appear and testify personally before the committee on  
2 this issue of vital importance to them.

3 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Warren G.  
4 Magnuson, Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee; the Honorable Ernest F.  
5 Hollings, Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Oceans and Atmosphere; and to the  
6 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the  
7 Honorable Nick Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation  
8 in Congress.

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