

Introduced: 2/4/74  
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

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2 <sup>CS</sup> SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 47

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the Secretary of the  
6 Interior's proposal for the withdrawal  
7 of national interest lands under  
8 Section 17(d)(2) of the Native Claims  
9 Settlement Act and urging congressional  
10 rejection of it.

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

12 WHEREAS, acting under Sec. 17(d)(2) of the Native Claims Settlement  
13 Act, the Secretary of the Interior has recommended to Congress that 83.47  
14 million acres of Alaska land be withdrawn from development, either by the  
15 state or by the private sector; and

16 WHEREAS this acreage would be added to existing, or used to create new,  
17 national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges and wild and scenic  
18 rivers to preserve the natural environment of Alaska in the national  
19 interest; and

20 WHEREAS, once again, there is an apparent effort by outside interests  
21 unfamiliar with, or unsympathetic to, Alaska's needs or problems to  
22 "lock up" Alaska's bounteous natural resources and prevent their appropriate  
23 development for generations to come, if not for all time; and

24 WHEREAS the Secretary's proposal differs sharply with recommendations  
25 painstakingly arrived at by the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning  
26 Commission, which proposed a withdrawal of 60 million rather than 80 million  
27 acres; and

28 WHEREAS it would appear that the Commission's recommendations were, in  
29 fact, studiously ignored; and

1           WHEREAS of particular concern to Alaskans is the apparent absence of  
2 treatment in the Secretary's land withdrawal proposal for the maintenance  
3 of adequate transportation and utility corridors and rights-of-way so  
4 essential to the proper development of the state, its natural resources,  
5 its transportation and communication system, and its economy, mining and  
6 mineral development, land management adjacent to native village and regional  
7 selections and considerations involving subsistence hunting and fishing  
for rural Alaskans; and

10           WHEREAS fear has been expressed that under the Secretary's proposal  
11 to Congress, provisions in the proposed legislation that allow the  
12 Secretary of the Interior to make minor boundary adjustments and add areas  
13 bordering on the withdrawals not chosen by Natives could swell the total  
14 land area withdrawn well above the 83.47 million acres to as much as 140  
million acres, by conservative estimates; and

15           WHEREAS there is concern, too, that under the Department of the  
16 Interior's withdrawal plan the management of Alaska's game and fish  
17 resources would fall into federal hands on the national park and game  
18 refuge preserves whereas, at present, these resources are managed by state  
19 officials; and

20           WHEREAS a major policy difference between the Commission's proposal  
21 and the Secretary's recommendation to Congress is that under the latter  
22 the Secretary of the Interior would have sole authority to decide if mineral  
23 exploration and development should be undertaken in the game refuges while  
24 the Commission's view is that minerals should be given an overall higher  
25 priority in all areas;

26           BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature vigorously protests  
27 the recommendations of the U. S. Secretary of the Interior to the Congress  
28 with respect to national interest land withdrawals under Section 17(d)(2)  
29 of the Native Claims Settlement Act as a profound disservice to Alaska,

1 its residents, and to the nation; and be it

2       FURTHER RESOLVED that the full membership of the Interior and Insular  
3 Affairs Committee of each house of Congress hold full-scale public hearings  
4 throughout Alaska before any Congressional action is taken on the current  
5 proposal; and be it

6       FURTHER RESOLVED that after thorough review and consideration the  
7 Congress of the United States is respectfully urged to modify the Secretary's  
8 recommendations using those made by the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning  
9 Commission as the basis for the final determination of appropriate land  
10 withdrawals.

11       COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Rogers C. B.  
12 Morton, Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior; the  
13 Honorable Henry M. Jackson, Chairman of the Senate Interior and Insular  
14 Affairs Committee; the Honorable James A. Haley, Chairman of the House Inter-  
15 ior and Insular Affairs Committee; to Mr. Burton Silcock and Mr. Joe  
16 Josephson, Co-Chairmen of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commis-  
17 sion; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S.  
18 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the  
19 Alaska delegation in Congress.  
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