

Original sponsor: T. Miller and Kerttula

Offered: 2/20/74
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 47

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Relating to the Secretary of the

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Interior's proposal for the withdrawal

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of national interest lands under

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Section 17(d)(2) of the Native Claims

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Settlement Act and urging congressional

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rejection of it.

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

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WHEREAS, acting under Section 17(d)(2) of the Native Claims Settlement

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Act, the Secretary of the Interior has recommended to Congress that 83.47

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million acres of Alaska land be permanently reserved by Congress as new units

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of, or as additions to, the national park, forest, refuge, and wild and

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scenic river systems; and

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WHEREAS, once again, there is an apparent need for Alaskans to make known

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throughout the nation that Alaska can serve the national interest in a variety

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of ways as a source of bounteous natural resources, including minerals and

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essential fuels as well as recreational and scenic values; and

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WHEREAS the Secretary's proposal is at variance with land use proposals

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painstakingly arrived at by the Joint Federal--State Land Use Planning Commis-

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sion after public hearings within Alaska and elsewhere, the Commission having

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given due recognition to the complex national and state interests, with due

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regard for environmental values and the utilization of essential resources to

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attain the declared national goal of self-sufficiency in fossil fuels and

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minerals; and

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WHEREAS among the particular concerns of Alaskans are (1) the apparent

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absence of criteria or mechanisms in the Secretary's land withdrawal proposal

1 for the establishment of adequate transportation and utility corridors and
2 rights-of-way so essential to the proper development of the state and its
3 communications and natural resources; and (2) ambiguity in the proposals
4 because of provision for wilderness studies to follow the requested congres-
5 sional enactment in lieu of addressing the issue of wilderness designation in
6 the context of the proposed legislation itself; and

7 WHEREAS the Secretary's proposal to Congress would allow the Secretary
8 of the Interior to make "minor" boundary adjustments and suggests addition of
9 areas bordering on the withdrawals not chosen by Natives, and these features
10 of the proposal could swell the total land area withdrawn well above the
11 83.47 million acres, in addition to large nonfederal areas that would be
12 affected as so-called "areas of critical environmental concern"; and

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

18 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature vigorously protests the
19 recommendations of the U. S. Secretary of the Interior to the Congress with
20 respect to national interest land withdrawals under Section 17(d)(2) of the
21 Native Claims Settlement Act as a profound disservice to Alaska, its residents,
22 and to the nation; and be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED that the full membership of the Interior and Insular
24 Affairs Committee of each house of Congress hold full-scale public hearings
25 throughout Alaska before any congressional action is taken on the current
26 proposal; and be it

27 FURTHER RESOLVED that after thorough review and consideration the Congress
28 of the United States is respectfully urged to modify the Secretary's recommend-
29 ations using those made by the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission

1 as the basis for the final determination of appropriate land withdrawals.

2 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Rogers C. B.
3 Morton, Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior; the
4 Honorable Henry M. Jackson, Chairman of the Senate Interior and Insular
5 Affairs Committee; the Honorable James A. Haley, Chairman of the House Inter-
6 ior and Insular Affairs Committee; to Mr. Burton Silcock and Mr. Joe
7 Josephson, Co-Chairmen of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commis-
8 sion; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S.
9 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the
10 Alaska delegation in Congress.

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