

Introduced: 2/12/76  
Referred: Commerce

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 77

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the establishment of a compre-  
6 hensive and meaningful agricultural policy  
7 for the State of Alaska.

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

9 WHEREAS without a state policy, boldly set out and strongly backed by  
10 the people, the Legislature, and the Executive, little can or will be done  
11 to establish agriculture in Alaska as an economically worthwhile endeavor;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS a sound and sustained agricultural production, processing and  
14 marketing industry is necessary to the healthy economic life and future  
15 well-being of Alaska; and

16 WHEREAS no geographic entity has ever attained lasting greatness through  
17 extractive resource production alone; and

18 WHEREAS the agricultural potential of the Great Land is perhaps its  
19 single most significant prospect for a stable future - a point clearly  
20 and emphatically made in three federal-state university studies: (1) "De-  
21 velopment of New Lands in Matanuska-Susitna Borough", 1970; (2) "Irrigation  
22 Potentials, Tanana River Valley, Alaska", 1972; and (3) "Alaska's Agricul-  
23 tural Potential", 1974; and

24 WHEREAS, given any one of many possible natural disasters - prolonged  
25 drought, floods, virulent disease among plants and animals, extreme climatic  
26 change, unpredictable weather in the continental United States - Alaska,  
27 because it is at the end of the nation's food system, would suffer the most  
28 direct and immediate impact; and

29 WHEREAS Alaska is known to have at least 17.5 million acres of tillable

1 land, plus at least 10 million more acres of conventional grazing land for  
2 potential agricultural use, as well as 100 million acres of land suitable  
3 for reindeer and musk-ox grazing; and

4 WHEREAS in the past there has been a lack of coordination of government  
5 programs and policies regarding agriculture; and

6 WHEREAS Alaska now produces less than five per cent of the food it con-  
7 sumes annually, agriculture, as a resource management tool, could provide a  
8 much larger percentage of the state's basic consumer needs in food, fiber,  
9 industrial raw materials, and aesthetic products at a reasonable price;

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the State of Alaska  
11 hereby commits itself to an agricultural policy that encourages and promotes  
12 wise use of its agricultural base, including, but not limited to the follow-  
13 ing courses of action:

14 (1) The state shall promptly determine how best to make available  
15 land for agricultural use.

16 (2) The state shall encourage agricultural production, processing,  
17 and marketing through identification and use of massive amounts of potentially  
18 recyclable waste energy.

19 (3) In connection with the commitment of "in kind" state royalties  
20 of oil and gas, provision shall be made for the production of reasonably  
21 priced fertilizer and fuel for local Alaska use.

22 (4) The state shall demand that all land identified in "Alaska's  
23 Agricultural Potential", 1974, as having tillable agriculture potential be  
24 removed from D-2 classification, and, in the national interest, be set aside  
25 for future agricultural production.

26 (5) The state shall actively encourage the production of phos-  
27 phate, limestone, and fish meal resources in Alaska for use in agricultural  
28 production.

29 (6) The state shall actively assist in the establishment and

1 financing of agriculture processing plants in key agricultural areas of the  
2 state to encourage local farm production.

3 (7) The state agencies shall work closely with private land owners,  
4 native regional corporations, village corporations, and other management  
5 organizations to stimulate agricultural production, processing and marketing.

6 (8) The Legislature, in cooperation with the Governor, shall  
7 establish a task force, composed of representatives of agriculture, business,  
8 and consumer interests, which shall be responsible for the study of legisla-  
9 tive options for implementing the policies enunciated in this resolution.

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