

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
BY REQUEST

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Recommending that the western watershed of  
6 Glacier Bay National Monument be removed  
7 from the effects of S. 2371.

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

9 WHEREAS Glacier Bay National Monument was created by Presidential  
10 Proclamation No. 1733 of February 26, 1925; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1936 after ten years of trying to open the Monument to  
12 mining, the Congress of the United States adopted the Act of June 22, 1936  
13 which rendered the mineral deposits in the Monument, exclusive of the land  
14 containing them, subject to location entry, patent and disposal under the  
15 mining laws of the United States and under regulations by the Secretary of  
16 the Interior; and

17 WHEREAS, in reliance on this law, 270 unpatented mining and millsite  
18 locations and 20 patented claims have been established within the Monument;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS nickel is one of the critical minerals in which the nation is  
21 in short supply from domestic sources; and

22 WHEREAS the National Commission on the Materials Policy in its latest  
23 report, as well as the Secretary of Interior, has stressed the need for  
24 development of domestic resources now; and

25 WHEREAS mining claims within the Monument are said to contain resources  
26 of one billion pounds of nickel and 600 million pounds of copper; and

27 WHEREAS the bulk of this deposit is in the western watershed of the  
28 Monument in rugged and inaccessible country west of a line extending north-  
29 northwesterly from the west shoreline of Taylor Bay, along the easterly

1 limits of the rock outcrops and nunataks on the west side of Brady Glacier,  
2 to the large rock outcrop (elevation 4,148) at the divide between Brady  
3 Glacier and Reid Glacier; and

4 WHEREAS the Senate of the United States has passed S. 2371 which would,  
5 among other things, repeal the Act of June 22, 1936 relating to mining in  
6 Glacier Bay National Monument; and

7 WHEREAS the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska,  
8 at a meeting held during the week of February 2, 1976, unanimously adopted a  
9 resolution which recommended that consideration of the repealer with respect  
10 to the western portion of the Monument be postponed pending the results of a  
11 mineral survey scheduled to be completed in 1978 to be conducted by the  
12 U. S. Bureau of Mines and the U. S. Geological Survey; and

13 WHEREAS the portion of the Monument subject to the recommendation of the  
14 Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission is isolated, remote, and not  
15 actively being used for public purposes; and

16 WHEREAS the exclusion of the western watershed from the repealer is  
17 supported by all members of the Alaska Congressional delegation; and

18 WHEREAS, if this area were actually mined, jobs would be created in an  
19 area characterized by chronically high unemployment; and

20 WHEREAS such use of those sections of the Monument would have little or  
21 no adverse permanent effect on the splendor and spectacular beauty of this  
22 magnificent area;

23 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
24 that the United States House of Representatives give urgent and immediate  
25 consideration to excluding from the repealer of the Act of June 22, 1936 now  
26 included in S. 2371 that portion of Glacier Bay National Monument described  
27 as the area between the following described line on the east and the Pacific  
28 Ocean on the west, comprising approximately 531,000 acres: the area bounded  
29 on the east by a line extending north-northwesterly from the west shoreline

1 of Taylor Bay, along the easterly limits of the rock outcrops and nunataks on  
2 the west side of Brady Glacier, to the large rock outcrop (elevation 4,148)  
3 at the divide between Brady Glacier and Reid Glacier; thence westerly to  
4 Mount Bertha; thence west northwesterly to Mount Orville; thence northwesterly  
5 and northerly along the divide of the Fairweather Range to Mount Wilbur,  
6 Lituya Mountain, Mount Salisbury, and Mount Quincy Adams.

7 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Gerald R. Ford,  
8 President of the United States; the Honorable Thomas S. Kleppe, Secretary of  
9 the Interior; the Honorable James A. Haley, Chairman, House Committee on  
10 Interior and Insular Affairs; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honor-  
11 able Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Repre-  
12 sentative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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