

Original sponsor: Cowper

Offered: 4/5/78
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 60

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Requesting the federal government to re-
6 move solid waste on land in Alaska in
7 accordance with the Resource Conservation
8 and Recovery Act (P.L. 94-580).

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

10 WHEREAS there is no greater blight on the land than solid waste in the
11 form of discarded and abandoned machinery and materials; and

12 WHEREAS this accumulation, largely a result of early military, indus-
13 trial, and exploratory development, has in many cases been a hazard and eye-
14 sore for several decades; and

15 WHEREAS the debris problem is compounded by the fact that land in Alaska
16 is often treeless and underlain by permafrost; and

17 WHEREAS the initial federal study of solid waste on federal land in
18 Alaska required by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (P.L.
19 94-580) has inventoried all the solid waste sites on Alaska's federal land
20 and land transferred to Natives under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
21 (P.L. 92-203), listing the type and quantity of abandoned debris for all
22 sites; and

23 WHEREAS the final version of this report, due in April 1978, will pro-
24 vide an additional inventory, recommend methods for cleanup, and estimate
25 costs, suggest administrative actions, and establish cleanup priorities among
26 sites; and

27 WHEREAS federal cleanup programs to remove the debris should focus on
28 those sites at which serious environmental and health problems are created by
29 the solid waste, such as the open dumps which exist at the DEWLine sites

1 along the Arctic coast; and

2 WHEREAS cleanup of solid waste debris deposited as a result of federal
3 activities on federal and Native transfer land in Alaska properly remains the
4 responsibility of the federal government;

5 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Legislature strongly urges all federal
6 agencies administering public land in Alaska to take swift action to remove
7 or dispose of solid waste debris on Alaska's federal land and land transferred
8 under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (P.L. 92-203) so that the
9 debris can be eliminated in an expeditious and cost-effective manner.

10 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter,
11 President of the United States; the Honorable Douglas M. Costle, Administra-
12 tor, Environmental Protection Agency; the Honorable Jennings Randolph, Chair-
13 man of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee; the Honorable
14 Harley O. Staggers, Chairman of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign
15 Commerce; the Honorable John Seiberling, U. S. Representative; the Honorable
16 Morris Udall, U. S. Representative; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honor-
17 able Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Repre-
18 sentative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the Honorable
19 Ernst W. Mueller, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conserva-
20 tion.