

Introduced: 5/24/78
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 81

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Asking the United States Congress to sus-
6 pend implementation of section 603 of the
7 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
8 1976 and redefine roads and roadways.

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

10 WHEREAS mining, oil, agriculture, timber harvesting, hunting, fishing,
11 and guiding are a major part of the basic economy of the State of Alaska; and

12 WHEREAS the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, is
13 conducting a wilderness review program under section 603 of the Federal Land
14 Policy and Management Act of 1976 that will effectively preclude mineral and
15 oil exploration and development as well as logging, agricultural, and
16 recreational activities on the large reserves of federal lands in Alaska which
17 are managed by the Bureau of Land Management; and

18 WHEREAS this wilderness review could result in closing vast land areas
19 to any future productive use and would result in a reduction of tax revenues
20 for the State of Alaska and in a loss of present and future jobs; and

21 WHEREAS the full implementation of this proposed wilderness policy would
22 add to the deficit in the balance of trade payments and thus reduce the value
23 of the dollar and seriously limit domestic exploration for and production of
24 vitally needed minerals, oil, food and other raw materials, causing an in-
25 creased dependence on unreliable and expensive foreign sources; and

26 WHEREAS this proposed wilderness policy depends on the definition of
27 "road" or "roadway"; and

28 WHEREAS high construction costs and great distances between populated
29 areas of the state have prevented the construction of paved or otherwise

1 improved roads and thus Alaska must rely upon a network of undeveloped roads
2 and trails for vital transportation and communication corridors in many rural
3 areas of the state; and

4 WHEREAS the present and future jobs of Alaskans in the mineral, timber,
5 and construction industries are in immediate jeopardy because the Bureau of
6 Land Management is denying permits to cross federal land;

7 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature finds that section 603
8 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 is not in the best
9 interests of Alaska or the United States and urges the United State Congress
10 to pass legislation which exempts Alaska lands from the application of that
11 section; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
13 that the United States Congress suspend implementation of section 603 of the
14 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 in Alaska until the definition
15 of "road" or "roadway" is amended to recognize Alaska's unique historical and
16 environmental circumstances by including trails, winter snowmobile and dog
17 sled trails, winter ice roads, and navigable rivers and streams within the
18 definition of roads or roadways.

19 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter,
20 President of the United States; the Honorable Cecil Andrus, Secretary of the
21 Interior; the Honorable Frank Gregg, Director, Bureau of Land Management;
22 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators,
23 and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
24 delegation in Congress.