

Introduced: 2/1/79
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Enunciating the position of the
6 Alaska State Legislature with respect
7 to national interest lands in Alaska.

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

9 WHEREAS section 17(d)(2) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of
10 1971 directed the Secretary of the Interior "to withdraw from all forms of
11 appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining and mineral
12 leasing laws, and from selection under the Alaska Statehood Act . . . up to,
13 but not to exceed, 80 million acres of unreserved public lands in the State
14 of Alaska . . . which the Secretary deems suitable for addition to or
15 creation as units of the National Park, Forest, Wildlife Refuge, and Wild and
16 Scenic River systems"; and

17 WHEREAS the same 1971 Act required Congress to act upon the Secretary's
18 recommendations within seven years; and

19 WHEREAS both the United States House of Representatives and the United
20 States Senate have had under consideration legislation responding to the
21 recommendations of the Secretary entered in accordance with the mandate of
22 the 1971 Act, but Congress has failed to agree on a single version of Alaska
23 national interest lands legislation; and

24 WHEREAS the President, Secretary of the Interior, and Secretary of
25 Agriculture, acting in accordance with authority purportedly granted by the
26 Antiquities Act (16 U.S.C. 431), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act
27 (43 U.S.C. 1701), and other statutory bases for land withdrawals and re-
28 classifications, have reserved or reclassified more than 110 million acres of
29 Alaska land, compromising Statehood Act selection rights and threatening or

1 severely restricting, if not altogether precluding, both traditional land and
2 resource use activities and opportunities for resource development throughout
3 much of Alaska;

4 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature adopts the following
5 seven points as the position of the State of Alaska in its attempts to secure
6 Congressional review and disposition of issues involving Alaska national
7 interest lands in keeping with the spirit of the 1971 Congressional legisla-
8 tion:

9 (1) Congress should revoke each and all of the December, 1978,
10 executive orders withdrawing lands in Alaska under claim of authority of the
11 Antiquities Act;

12 (2) by legislation, Congress should convey to the State its full
13 entitlement of federal lands authorized by the Alaska Statehood Act, and to
14 Alaska Natives the full entitlement of federal lands authorized to Alaska
15 Natives by the Indian Allotment Act (Act of February 8, 1887), as amended,
16 and by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended;

17 (3) Congress should provide for a rational means of providing
18 access to state and private lands across any federal enclaves created;

19 (4) State management of fish and game on all lands in Alaska
20 should be continued;

21 (5) the classification of federal lands and drawing of the bound-
22 aries of federal reservations by Congress in designating national interest
23 lands in Alaska should exclude those resources which are highly valuable,
24 leaving these resources available for state or private development to the
25 greatest extent consistent with national interests;

26 (6) traditional land uses on all lands in Alaska should continue;
27 and

28 (7) The President and the Secretary of the Interior should be
29 precluded from establishing or adding to any conservation system unit within

Alaska by means of any executive or administrative authority; and he it
FURTHER RESOLVED that all Alaskans are urged to support these seven
general policies as the basis for a resolution of national interest lands
issues that is equitable and beneficial to the interests of the people of the
nation and the state.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter,
President of the United States; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S.
Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to all
other members of the United States Congress.

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