

Original sponsors: Tillion and Rodey

Offered: 2/20/79

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

2

FREE CONFERENCE CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

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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

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to national interest lands in Alaska.

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

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WHEREAS section 17(d)(2) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of

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1971 directed the Secretary of the Interior "to withdraw from all forms of

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appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining and mineral

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leasing laws, and from selection under the Alaska Statehood Act . . . up to,

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but not to exceed, 80 million acres of unreserved public lands in the State

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of Alaska . . . which the Secretary deems suitable for addition to or

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creation as units of the National Park, Forest, Wildlife Refuge, and Wild and

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Scenic River systems"; and

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WHEREAS the same 1971 Act required Congress to act upon the Secretary's

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recommendations within seven years; and

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WHEREAS both the United States House of Representatives and the United

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States Senate have had under consideration legislation responding to the

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recommendations of the Secretary entered in accordance with the mandate of

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the 1971 Act, but Congress has failed to agree on a single version of Alaska

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national interest lands legislation; and

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WHEREAS the President, Secretary of the Interior, and Secretary of

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Agriculture, acting in accordance with authority purportedly granted by the

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Antiquities Act (16 U.S.C. 431), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act

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(43 U.S.C. 1701), and other statutory bases for land withdrawals and re-

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classifications, have reserved or reclassified more than 110 million acres of

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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 1978 executive or
10 administrative orders withdrawing lands in Alaska;

11 (2) by legislation, Congress should convey to the State its full
12 entitlement of federal lands authorized by the Alaska Statehood Act, and to
13 Alaska Natives the full entitlement of public lands authorized to Alaska
14 Natives by the Alaska Native Allotment Act, 48 U.S.C. 357 (Act of May 17,
15 1906), as amended, and by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as
16 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) Congress should exempt highly valuable mineral deposits and
22 other commodity resources from inclusion in federal systems which obviate
23 development;

24 (6) traditional land uses on all lands in Alaska should continue;
25 and

26 (7) The President and the Secretary of the Interior should be
27 precluded from establishing or adding to any conservation system unit within
28 Alaska by means of any executive or administrative authority; and be it

29 FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska's Congressional delegation support the

1 passage of Alaska lands legislation this year as long as that legislation
2 basically conforms to the policy statements enumerated in this resolution and
3 is an improvement over conditions which would otherwise prevail under the
4 Antiquities Act and other executive and administrative actions should no
5 Alaska land legislation be enacted.

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

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