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1 IN THE HOUSE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to the processing of Native

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allotments.

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

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WHEREAS the Bureau of Land Management of the United States Department

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of the Interior has been given the responsibility for processing the appli-

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cations for allotments granted under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement

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Act of 1971; and

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WHEREAS the present procedures of the Bureau of Land Management are

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moving so slowly that it has been publicly stated in Alaska that it will

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take no less than 20 years before the allotment applications now on file

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can be processed; and

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WHEREAS one informed source stated that at the present rate of pro-

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cessing it will take 70 years for the applications to be processed; and

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WHEREAS the applications for the allotments have already been on file

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for 10 years or more; and

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WHEREAS individual applicants are being born into and dying out from

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the existing applications, resulting, at the least, in unnecessary probate

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difficulties for the applicants; and

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WHEREAS the land contained within the allotment applications repre-

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sents the single most valuable asset for most of the individuals who have

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applied for the allotments; and

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WHEREAS village corporations established under the settlement act may

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not receive title to their land until the privately owned land is trans-

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ferred; and

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WHEREAS the questions unresolved in these allotment applications cast

1 a cloud on the title to the village corporation lands; and

2 WHEREAS the prospect of substantial delay in obtaining title to the
3 village land represents a substantial financial loss to the village corpo-
4 rations because it delays the possibility of the village corporations using
5 their land;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the
7 Congress to provide adequate funding to the Bureau of Land Management,
8 United States Department of the Interior, so that the bureau may carry out
9 the mandate that Congress gave the bureau over 10 years ago.

10 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
11 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the
12 Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Representa-
13 tives; to the Honorable James Watt, Secretary of the Interior; to Robert F.
14 Burford, Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and to the Honorable
15 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
16 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
17 in Congress.