

Introduced: 3/11/83
Referred: Resources

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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the processing of Native
6 allotments.

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

8 WHEREAS the Bureau of Land Management of the United States Department
9 of the Interior has been given the responsibility for processing the appli-
10 cations for allotments granted under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement
11 Act of 1971; and

12 WHEREAS the present procedures of the Bureau of Land Management are
13 moving so slowly that it has been publicly stated in Alaska that it will
14 take no less than 20 years before the allotment applications now on file
15 can be processed; and

16 WHEREAS the applications for the allotments have already been on file
17 for 10 years or more; and

18 WHEREAS individual applicants are being born into and dying out from
19 the existing applications, resulting, at the least, in unnecessary probate
20 difficulties for the applicants; and

21 WHEREAS the land contained within the allotment applications repre-
22 sents the single most valuable asset for most of the individuals who have
23 applied for the allotments; and

24 WHEREAS village corporations established under the settlement act may
25 not receive title to their land until the privately owned land is trans-
26 ferred; and

27 WHEREAS the questions unresolved in these allotment applications cast
28 a cloud on the title to the village corporation lands; and

29 WHEREAS the prospect of substantial delay in obtaining title to the

1 village land represents a substantial financial loss to the village corpo-
2 rations because it delays the possibility of the village corporations using
3 their land;

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

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