

Introduced: 2/13/84  
Referred: Resources and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY VASKA BY REQUEST

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 68

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Requesting the federal government to

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reject the proposed plan from the Alaska

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Department of Fish and Game to reassume

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management of certain marine mammal

9

species.

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

11 WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has unilaterally de-  
12 cided and announced that it will apply to the United States Department of  
13 the Interior to reassume the management responsibility of the polar bear,  
14 walrus, sea lion, beluga whale, sea otters, harbor seals, spotted seals,  
15 ringed seals, bearded seals and ribbon seals; and

16 WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game failed to hold any  
17 public hearings to determine if there was public support for the State of  
18 Alaska to reassume management responsibilities pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1379;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game has failed to document  
21 or seek through the public hearing process the need for the state to reas-  
22 sume the management of the marine mammal species being considered; and

23 WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game admits that they may  
24 not be able to explain the proposed regulations to the various regional  
25 fish and game councils before the official state Board of Fish and Game  
26 takes action; and

27 WHEREAS, the initial primary pressure for resumption of marine mammal  
28 management by the state came from a limited few within the Alaska Depart-  
29 ment of Fish and Game rather than the public at large; and

1       WHEREAS, the federal government places a heavy emphasis on local  
2 responsibility and enforcement of marine mammal protection; and

3       WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 1985 state operating budget submitted by the  
4 Governor's Office of Management and Budget includes \$1,200,000 to implement  
5 and enforce a marine mammal management plan;

6       BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully request  
7 the federal government to reject the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's  
8 petition to reassume management of certain marine mammals until there is  
9 adequate public notice and comment concerning whether or not the state  
10 should take marine mammal management back from the federal government.

11       COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable William  
12 Clark, Secretary of the Department of Interior; the Honorable Malcolm  
13 Baldrige, Secretary of the Department of Commerce; the Chairmen of the  
14 Senate Commerce and Environment and Public Works Committees, U.S. Senate;  
15 Chairmen of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries and Interior Commit-  
16 tees, U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the  
17 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.  
18 Representative, members of the Alaska Delegation in Congress.