

Introduced: 2/8/84
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SACKETT

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to Northland Gold Dredging

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Company operations in the Tuluksak

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River - Granite Creek area.

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

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WHEREAS the Northland Gold Dredging Company is seeking approval from
10 the Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the
11 Bureau of Land Management, as well as the Alaska Department of Fish and
12 Game and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, to expand
13 dredging operations in the Granite Creek area near the Tuluksak River in
14 western Alaska; and

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WHEREAS the residents of the village of Tuluksak have expressed over-
16 whelming opposition to Northland Gold Dredging Company's plans to divert
17 and dredge Granite Creek; and

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WHEREAS the proposed dredging operations may pollute drinking water
19 supplies for the village of Tuluksak and could have an adverse effect on
20 spawning grounds and on subsistence fishing in the area; and

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WHEREAS Northland Gold Dredging Company's existing operations in the
22 Tuluksak River area have already interfered with escapement counts by the
23 Alaska Department of Fish and Game; and

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WHEREAS Northland Gold Dredging Company has received citations for
25 allegedly violating water quality standards in its Tuluksak River opera-
26 tions; and

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WHEREAS the Alaska Legislature is charged by the Alaska Constitution
28 with providing for the conservation of the state's natural resources and
29 the health of the state's residents;

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Army Corps of
2 Engineers is requested to deny Northland Gold Dredging Company's applica-
3 tion for a permit modification under 33 U.S.C. 1344 (section 404 of the
4 Clean Water Act) for the Tuluksak River No. 2 project; and be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Environmental Protection Agency is requested
6 to not issue to Northland Gold Dredging Company a wastewater disposal
7 permit (NPDES) or a consent decree under 33 U.S.C. 1342 (section 402 of the
8 Clean Water Act) for the Granite Creek dredging project; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bureau of Land Management is requested to
10 disapprove The Northland Gold Dredging Company mining plan for the Granite
11 Creek dredging operation; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the
13 Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation are requested to deny state
14 certification and issuance of any permits relating to Northland Gold Dredg-
15 ing Company's Granite Creek dredging project.

16 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Permits Section, Regu-
17 latory Functions Branch, Alaska District, Army Corps of Engineers; the
18 Environmental Protection Agency, Alaska Operations Office; the Bureau of
19 Land Management, Anchorage District Office; Don Collinsworth, Commissioner,
20 Alaska Department of Fish and Game; Richard A. Neve', Commissioner, Alaska
21 Department of Environmental Conservation.