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Referred: Transportation and  
Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY SHULTZ

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO.14

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the navigability of Alaska's

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ivers and lakes.

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

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WHEREAS Alaska's rivers and lakes have always been a primary means of  
9 transportation and access for the people of the state; and

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WHEREAS a great many of these same waterbodies have traditionally and  
11 historically served as routes for commerce and trade; and

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WHEREAS the geographic features of the State of Alaska necessitate the  
13 continued use of these rivers and lakes for both commercial and noncommer-  
14 cial purposes; and

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WHEREAS the Bureau of Land Management is not considering several  
16 traditional means of transportation used in Alaska, such as float plane,  
17 flat bottom river boat, dog sled, and snow machine, when determining  
18 whether bodies of water in Alaska are navigable; and

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WHEREAS all other states have had the opportunity to demonstrate  
20 navigability of waterbodies within their boundaries on a much less restric-  
21 tive basis; and

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WHEREAS the State of Alaska has several test cases now in litigation  
23 that will help establish a basis for claiming navigability of its water-  
24 bodies; and

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WHEREAS trade, commerce, subsistence, and recreational activities  
26 should continue on a traditional basis on Alaska's navigable rivers and  
27 lakes; and

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WHEREAS the federal government is now studying waterbodies in Alaska  
29 for classification as wild and scenic rivers without knowing whether or not

1 they will be determined navigable; and

2 WHEREAS such classification may prevent the citizens of this state  
3 from legally continuing their historical and traditional uses of Alaskan  
4 waterbodies;

5 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
6 the President of the United States and the Congress to direct the Secretary  
7 of the Interior to suspend further classification of Alaskan waterbodies as  
8 wild and scenic rivers until such time that a final decision is reached on  
9 the issue of navigability, thus allowing historical and traditional activ-  
10 ities to continue on the Alaskan waterbodies in dispute or in litigation.