

Introduced: 4/1/86  
Referred: Resources and  
Judiciary

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 70

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Relating to placer mining in the state.

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

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WHEREAS mining constitutes a substantial source of income in both rural and urban areas of the state; and

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WHEREAS many of those employed in the placer mining industry are locally hired and have earned, according to a recent report by the state, some \$13 million each year; and

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WHEREAS the same report concludes that \$65 million of economic activity was generated each year by the placer mining industry in the state; and

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WHEREAS the Sierra Club and other environmental groups have filed suit against the Bureau of Land Management invoking provisions of the Environmental Protection Act; and

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WHEREAS the plaintiffs in the lawsuit have requested an order prohibiting further activity by placer miners on the public land of the United States pending the complete review of mining applications under the Environmental Protection Act; and

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WHEREAS Rear Admiral William Mott, chairman of the National Strategic Materials and Minerals Program Advisory Committee, has recently stressed the need for more knowledge of the strategic minerals located in the state;

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the support of the Secretary of the Interior for placer mining and for the exploration for strategic minerals located within the state be continued and that the U.S. Attorney and other representatives of the U.S. Department of Justice oppose with their full resources the effort of environmental groups to extinguish the placer mining industry in the State of Alaska.

1           COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald  
2 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable Edwin Meese, III,  
3 Attorney General; to the Honorable Donald Hodel, Secretary of the Interior;  
4 to the Honorable George Bush, Vice-President of the United States and  
5 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker  
6 of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and  
7 the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,  
8 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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