

Offered: 1/22/85
Referred: Finance

Original sponsors: Fahrenkamp, Faiks
and Coghill

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3 (Resources)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 Requesting that the State of Alaska
6 pursue a land exchange with the U.S.
7 Department of the Interior to exclude
8 the Dunkle Mine Township Area from
9 Denali National Park and Preserve.
10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
11 WHEREAS the boundaries of Denali National Park and Preserve were
12 expanded by the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation
13 Act in 1980 to include the historic Dunkle Mine Township Area; and
14 WHEREAS the Dunkle Mine Township Area contains good quality coal
15 deposits, at least four high-grade gold/silver vein deposits, placer gold
16 deposits, and large low grade copper/precious metal deposits; and
17 WHEREAS the proximity of the Dunkle Township Area to the Alaska Rail-
18 road and the Parks Highway enhances the favorability of the area's mining
19 potential; and
20 WHEREAS claimholders had established rights to the minerals in the
21 area before the time the park was expanded to include the claims; and
22 WHEREAS in recognition of the fact that the Dunkle Township Area has
23 known mineral potential, Section 202(3)(b) of ANILCA mandated that a study
24 of the relationship of mineral resources and mining activity to the other
25 resources of the area be done by the Alaska Land Use Council in cooperation
26 with the Secretary of Interior; and
27 WHEREAS the potential for mineral development of the Dunkle Township
28 Area will be lost if the area stays within the park, as park status will
29 not allow new mining claims and may invalidate many of the present claims;

1 and

2 WHEREAS one of the alternatives offered in the 1983 Draft Environ-
3 mental Impact Statement of the Dunkle Mine Study was to remove mineralized
4 areas and mining activity from the park boundaries and place them under the
5 jurisdiction of the State of Alaska; and

6 WHEREAS there is no conclusive evidence that deletion of the Dunkle
7 Township Area from the park would result in a lack of protection for the
8 caribou herd, as any adverse effects that may occur from increased mining
9 activity could be mitigated under the direction of the state; and

10 WHEREAS there is state owned land contiguous to Denali National Park
11 and Preserve with scenic and wildlife values equal to the Dunkle Township
12 Area; and

13 WHEREAS Section 1302(h) of ANILCA clearly authorizes exchanges in
14 conservation units; and

15 WHEREAS public testimony solicited during the study process was in
16 strong support of an exchange; and

17 WHEREAS the Department of Interior has indicated that it regards a
18 land exchange as one of the better solutions for the problems identified in
19 the Dunkle Mine Study, and initial discussions have occurred between the
20 State Department of Natural Resources, the National Park Service, and the
21 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks indicating a
22 willingness by all parties to negotiate and exchange;

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the State of
24 Alaska and the Department of Interior take whatever action is necessary to
25 exclude the Dunkle Township Area from the Denali National Park and Preserve
26 through a land exchange that would allow the National Park Service to
27 acquire lands of equal value with high scenic and wildlife habitat values
28 and allow the state the opportunity to develop the mineralized lands in the
29 Dunkle Township Area; and be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED that the land exchange be as simple and uncomplicated
2 as possible, preferably for lands of equal value to the Dunkle Township
3 Area and adjacent to the Denali National Park and Preserve.

4 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable William
5 Clark, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior; the Honorable Bill
6 Sheffield, Governor; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
7 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
8 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.