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1 IN THE HOUSE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the reflagging of foreign

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fish processing vessels.

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

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WHEREAS the United States is making progress toward the goal of full

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use of the groundfish resources off the coast of Alaska; and

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WHEREAS the groundfish processing capacity of United States processing

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plants has been unable to keep pace with the groundfish harvesting capacity

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of United States fishermen, which is supported largely by foreign proces-

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sors; and

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WHEREAS federal law allows foreign processors to "reflag", i.e.,

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document foreign-built vessels as United States vessels, so long as the

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vessel owners meet the United States citizenship requirements of 46 U.S.C.

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12102; and

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WHEREAS several operations involving reflagging are being considered;

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and

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WHEREAS continuing to allow the reflagging of foreign processing

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vessels would harm United States processors by hindering their efforts to

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reach the goal of full use of the groundfish resources; and

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WHEREAS reflagged foreign processing vessels could destroy Alaskan

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shore-based processing, which is the economic basis of many Alaskan coastal

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communities, by invading the salmon, crab, halibut, shrimp, and other

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fisheries traditionally relied upon by Alaska processors; and

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WHEREAS the reflagging of foreign processing vessels could prevent

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United States processing plants from gaining entry into the foreign market;

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and

1       WHEREAS the reflagging of foreign processing vessels would impede the  
2 formation of capital in the United States for investment in processing  
3 vessels built in the United States; and

4       WHEREAS the reflagging of foreign processing vessels would be a deter-  
5 rent to the employment of the United States labor force; and

6       WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has unanimously  
7 endorsed the call for a solution to the significant problem of reflagging  
8 foreign processing vessels;

9       BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of  
10 the United States is urgently requested to pass legislation, retroactive to  
11 January 1, 1986, prohibiting the reflagging of foreign fish processing  
12 vessels so that vessels documented as United States processing vessels must  
13 be built in the United States.

14       COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,  
15 Vice-President of the United States and President of the United States  
16 Senate; the Honorable John Stennis, President Pro-tempore of the United  
17 States Senate; the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the House of Represen-  
18 tatives; the Honorable Ernest Hollings, Chairman, Senate Commerce, Science,  
19 and Transportation Committee; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable  
20 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Repre-  
21 sentative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to Mr. James  
22 Campbell, Chairman of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.