

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY WALLIS

2 SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 58

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the return of human remains
6 from the Smithsonian Institution.

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

8 WHEREAS the legislature recognizes the equality of all human beings on
9 this earth and their right to be treated with dignity and respect; and

10 WHEREAS this respect is extended to human remains after death; and

11 WHEREAS, around the turn of the century, military and scientific
12 expeditions collected human remains throughout Alaska, particularly in
13 Native villages along the interior rivers and Northwest Coast; and

14 WHEREAS the Smithsonian Institution became the final repository for a
15 great number of these human remains; and

16 WHEREAS the display and storage of these human remains in the Smith-
17 sonian Institution is inappropriate and manifests lack of respect for the
18 remains; and

19 WHEREAS the return of these human remains to relatives or to the sites
20 of origin would be an appropriate act of restitution;

21 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges that
22 the Smithsonian Institution comply in a respectful and timely manner with
23 requests of individuals and tribal organizations for the return of human
24 remains taken from their families and regions in Alaska around the turn of
25 the century.

26 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
27 Reagan, President of the United States; Mrs. Reagan, First Lady of the
28 United States; the Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman of the Senate
29 Select Committee on Indian Affairs; the Honorable Robert McCormick Adams,

1 Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens
2 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
3 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.