

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY FURNACE, MARTIN AND
BARNES

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 59

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to the determination of the

6

state's boundaries with the Soviet Union

7

and Canada.

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

9 WHEREAS the boundaries of the state are a vital concern of the govern-
10 ment of the state; and

11 WHEREAS the sovereignty of a state within the federal system of the
12 United States requires that a state government have complete and unambigu-
13 ous jurisdiction over an area determined by well-defined geographical
14 boundary lines; and

15 WHEREAS, whenever the boundaries of a state are to be altered, the
16 state has an essential and overriding interest in the determination of the
17 boundary; and

18 WHEREAS Alaska is unique among the 50 states because it is the only
19 state with the potential for having boundaries with more than one foreign
20 country; and

21 WHEREAS boundaries between a foreign country and a state are, and
22 should be, coterminous with the national boundaries of the United States
23 and the foreign country; and

24 WHEREAS negotiations are underway between the U.S. Department of State
25 and the government of the Soviet Union over setting the boundaries between
26 the United States and the Soviet Union; and

27 WHEREAS at least eight rounds of boundary negotiations between the
28 United States and the Soviet Union have occurred since 1981; and

29 WHEREAS although the U.S. negotiation delegations have included

1 representatives of various federal agencies, the Department of State has
2 never allowed or offered to invite a representative of the state to join
3 the U.S. delegation to the boundary negotiations or formally solicited the
4 input or advice of the state about the content or strategy of the nego-
5 tiations; and

6 WHEREAS the negotiations involve important economic issues dealing
7 with the petroleum, fishery, and other resources of the state and affecting
8 the welfare and prosperity of the people of the state;

9 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature petitions the U.S.
10 Department of State to include a representative of the state, appointed by
11 the governor with the consent of the legislature, on all delegations that
12 negotiate the boundaries between the state and the Soviet Union or Canada,
13 including delegations that conduct preparatory deliberations and studies;
14 and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
16 quests that the Alaska delegation in Congress intercede on behalf of the
17 state to secure a representative of the state on all boundary delegations
18 that negotiate the boundaries of the state.

19 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
20 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush,
21 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to
22 the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to
23 the Honorable George P. Shultz, Secretary of the U.S. Department of State;
24 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.
25 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the
26 Alaska delegation in Congress.