

1 IN THE SENATE

BY STURGULEWSKI

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to the documentation and crews

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of United States-documented fish pro-

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cessing vessels.

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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 federal law allows the "reflagging" or documenting of for-

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eign-built vessels as United States fish processing vessels; and

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WHEREAS continuing to allow the reflagging of foreign vessels for fish

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processing would harm United States processors by hindering their efforts

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

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WHEREAS continuing to allow reflagged foreign vessels to be used for

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fish processing could destroy the Alaskan fishing industry by invading the

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salmon, crab, halibut, shrimp, and other fisheries traditionally relied

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upon by Alaska processors; and

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WHEREAS despite the requirement of 46 U.S.C. 8103(b) that at least 75

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percent of the crew members on a documented vessel departing a United

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States port be United States citizens, a reflagged vessel used for fish

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processing can employ a lower-paid foreign crew by avoiding United States

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ports; and

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WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has unanimously

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endorsed the call for a solution to the significant problem of reflagging

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foreign vessels for use as fish processors; and

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WHEREAS legislation had been introduced in the United States Senate to

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place a 10-year moratorium on the use of a foreign-built vessel for fish

1 processing if the vessel is reflagged after January 1, 1987, and to require
2 permanently that all crew members on United States-documented fish process-
3 ing vessels be United States citizens;

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of
5 the United States is urgently requested to amend laws relating to vessel
6 documentation and crews to prohibit the use of reflagged foreign-built
7 vessels for fish processing until at least January 1, 1997, and to require
8 that 100 percent of the crew members of vessels documented as United States
9 processing vessels be United States citizens.

10 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
11 Vice-President of the United States and President of the United States
12 Senate; the Honorable John Stennis, President pro tempore of the United
13 States Senate; the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the United States House
14 of Representatives; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
15 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
16 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to Mr. James Campbell,
17 Chairman of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.