

Offered: 5/7/88
Referred: Rules

5-0621L

Original sponsors: Coghill, Faiks,
Jones and Fahrenkamp

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RULES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17 (Rules)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 Relating to federally managed conserva-
6 tion system units in the state.
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
8 WHEREAS records indicate that 89 percent of the land managed by the
9 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 72 percent of the land managed by the
10 National Park Service, 17 percent of the land managed by the Bureau of Land
11 Management, and 12 percent of the land managed by the U.S. Forest Service
12 is located within the State of Alaska; and
13 WHEREAS 15 percent of the land in the State of Alaska managed by these
14 agencies has been given wilderness designation, withdrawing 56,400,000
15 acres from development of the nation's resources; and
16 WHEREAS, of the land designated as wilderness in the United States, 71
17 percent of the land lies within the State of Alaska; and
18 WHEREAS conservation units within the state, including those designat-
19 ed as such by the State of Alaska, now total over 150,000,000 acres, an
20 area equal to 41 percent of the land area of the State of Alaska and also
21 equal to the entire State of California; and
22 WHEREAS the economic and social fabric of the state is intertwined
23 with a heritage of the land and its resources; and
24 WHEREAS the nation was founded on principles that encouraged an indi-
25 vidual to go forth and live, work, and play on the land; and
26 WHEREAS the people of the State of Alaska are experiencing increasing
27 restrictions on the use and benefit of the state's natural resources; and
28 WHEREAS the Congress of the United States recognized in sec. 101(d) of
29 the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act that the need for

1 future legislation designating new conservation system units, new national
2 conservation units, or new national recreation areas has been obviated by
3 passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and

4 WHEREAS there is a clear and known necessity for the United States to
5 achieve independence from reliance on foreign sources of both energy and
6 mineral materials as a guard against foreign dominance and interference in
7 our nation's economic self-sufficiency; and

8 WHEREAS the Congress is presently considering legislation that would
9 affect the present multiple-use management of the 23,500,000 acre Naval
10 Petroleum Reserve - Alaska; and

11 WHEREAS, due to extensive study by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management,
12 the U.S. Geologic Survey, and the U.S. Bureau of Mines, it is known that
13 the Naval Petroleum Reserve - Alaska contains 30 to 40 percent of the
14 United States' known coal resources, as well as metal and minerals such as
15 lead, zinc, and the platinum group, and other strategic and critical
16 minerals of economic quality;

17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of
18 the United States is strongly urged not to create a new conservation system
19 unit on land presently within the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska or to
20 remove such land from the management authority of the Bureau of Land Man-
21 agement; and be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress and the President not designate
23 further acreage in the State of Alaska with wilderness status until exten-
24 sive mineral, forest, and wildlife resource assessments have been conducted
25 with full public participation for the good of the nation and the people of
26 Alaska for generations to come.

27 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
28 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George Bush, Vice-
29 President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the

1 Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
2 Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chairman, and the members of U.S. Senate
3 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Walter B. Jones,
4 Chairman, and the members of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on
5 Merchant Marine and Fisheries; the Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman, and
6 the members of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Interior and
7 Insular Affairs; the Honorable Donald P. Hodel, Secretary of the Interior;
8 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.
9 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the
10 Alaska delegation in Congress.