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1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 49

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the development of a visi-
6 tors' center and facilities on the south
7 side of the Alaska Range.

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

9 WHEREAS the commercial tourist industry is seeking new destinations
10 and experiences to satisfy a growing demand for visitors; and

11 WHEREAS tourists have rated viewing Mt. McKinley as a major reason for
12 visiting Alaska; and

13 WHEREAS, in order to protect wildlife viewing opportunities, road
14 traffic in Denali National Park and Preserve has been restricted and new
15 ways of satisfying the demand for visitor destinations oriented towards Mt.
16 McKinley must be developed; and

17 WHEREAS the State of Alaska and the National Park Service have recog-
18 nized the exceptional opportunities for viewing Mt. McKinley from the south
19 side of the Alaska Range; and

20 WHEREAS Denali State Park encompasses accessible locations with excel-
21 lent opportunities for viewing Mt. McKinley and for related outdoor recre-
22 ation activities; and

23 WHEREAS one of the purposes of the Alaska Legislature in establishing
24 Denali State Park was to encompass prime Mt. McKinley viewing locations and
25 to enable development of a major visitors' complex oriented toward Mt.
26 McKinley; and

27 WHEREAS the National Park Service is interested in investing in a
28 visitors' center on the south side, and is currently working with the
29 Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and the Denali State Parks

1 Citizens Advisory Board to accomplish the necessary planning; and

2 WHEREAS the development of a visitors' center and facilities on the
3 south side of the Alaska Range is being planned as a private-public part-
4 nership involving private development of commercial facilities; and

5 WHEREAS the development of a new visitors' center and related facil-
6 ities would generate employment and support small businesses operating
7 recreational services in the vicinity;

8 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports joint state,
9 federal, and private participation in the cooperative planning and develop-
10 ment of a South Denali visitors' complex.

11 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald P.
12 Hodel, Secretary of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
13 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
14 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.