

Introduced: 3/3/87
Referred: Resources

5-0604A

1 IN THE SENATE

BY COGHILL AND FAIKS

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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 14

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the Bureau of Land Manage-

6

ment draft Utility Corridor Resource

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Management Plan.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

9 WHEREAS in 1971, PLO 5150 withdrew land for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline
10 right-of-way; and

11 WHEREAS the land was withdrawn subject to valid existing rights from
12 all forms of appropriation under the public land laws except for the loca-
13 tion of metalliferous metals under the mining laws; and

14 WHEREAS the land affected by PLO 5150 comprises approximately
15 5,343,300 acres and is known as the Outer Corridor; and

16 WHEREAS PLO 5150 also withdrew the land in the Outer Corridor from
17 leasing under the mineral leasing laws, from selection by the State of
18 Alaska under the Alaska Statehood Act, and from selection by regional or
19 village corporations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971;
20 and

21 WHEREAS the land in the Outer Corridor was reserved as a utility and
22 transportation corridor under sec. 17(c) of the Alaska Native Claims Set-
23 tlement Act in aid of programs of the U.S. Government and of the State of
24 Alaska; and

25 WHEREAS approximately 2,897,520 acres were withdrawn from prospecting,
26 location, and purchase under the mining laws of the United States and this
27 land is known as the Inner Corridor; and

28 WHEREAS PLO 5150 subjected the land in the Inner Corridor to the
29 authority of the Secretary of the Interior to make contracts and grant

1 licenses, permits, rights-of-way, easements, and leases other than mineral
2 leases unless PLO 5150 was expressly modified; and

3 WHEREAS the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline was built after PLO 5150 was
4 issued and its construction has had a substantial regional effect and
5 constitutes a major economic benefit to the State of Alaska and the United
6 States; and

7 WHEREAS in 1980, 90 percent of the 200 people living within the land
8 in the corridor were receiving their income from the Trans-Alaska pipeline
9 and the remainder were involved in mining and transportation activities;
10 and

11 WHEREAS the Dalton Highway, opened by the State of Alaska in 1980, has
12 created opportunities for mining access as well as use for recreation; and

13 WHEREAS there would be a substantial and beneficial effect on the
14 economy of the Fairbanks area if this singular transportation link were
15 available for increased precious and strategic mineral development; and

16 WHEREAS opportunities for recreational use of the corridor have re-
17 sulted from the construction of roads, trails, bridges, and similar im-
18 provements without significant long-term adverse effects on the environ-
19 ment;

20 BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate strongly recommends that the draft
21 Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan prepared by the Bureau of Land
22 Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, should

23 (1) not discriminate among users of the corridor, whether they
24 are guides and outfitters, recreational users, miners, residents of the
25 corridor, or the State of Alaska;

26 (2) in any consideration of a limitation on trail use by re-
27 quiring a permit, acknowledge valid existing rights, including those of
28 miners and loggers;

29 (3) identify and reserve a transportation corridor to provide

1 future access from the Ambler Mining District to the Dalton Highway in each
2 draft plan alternative;

3 (4) limit each closure for the protection of wildlife lick sites
4 to mining operations of an area within the corridor to an area with a
5 quarter-mile radius and each closure should last only until alternate
6 mineral lick sites occur outside the corridor;

7 (5) not designate an area of critical environmental concern only
8 on the basis of scenic values;

9 (6) not base the closure of an area only on agency convenience,
10 particularly within the Inner Corridor, but rather on the engineering
11 requirements of the pipeline, now and in the future;

12 (7) not establish as an area of critical environmental concern
13 an area of importance for the transportation and utility needs of the
14 pipeline within the corridor;

15 (8) not contain any wilderness designations;

16 (9) grant the State of Alaska an opportunity to select land
17 within the corridor under Section 906 of the Alaska National Interest Lands
18 Conservation Act and under the Statehood Act.

19 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald P.
20 Hodel, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; to Michael J.
21 Penfold, Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and to the Honorable
22 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
23 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
24 in Congress.