

BY REP. MILLER, Sharp, Shultz, C.Davis, Barnes

1 IN THE HOUSE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 62

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Relating to the "no net loss of wet-

6

lands" policy of the United States Army

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Corps of Engineers and the United States

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Environmental Protection Agency.

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

10 WHEREAS the Domestic Policy Council is considering advancing for
11 Presidential approval a national "no net loss of wetlands" policy; and

12 WHEREAS the November 17, 1989, Memorandum of Agreement between the
13 United States Corps of Engineers and the United States Environmental Pro-
14 tection Agency fails to distinguish Alaska's fundamentally different wet-
15 lands from those of the other states; and

16 WHEREAS the perceived need for a "no net loss" policy is caused by
17 wetlands loss in the continental United States, not in Alaska; and

18 WHEREAS the concept of wetlands has become increasingly expanded since
19 the Clean Water Act was originally implemented; and

20 WHEREAS 88 percent of the total land mass of the state is still owned
21 by the federal or state government, and the state already exercises strict
22 control on its development; and

23 WHEREAS under the existing definition of wetlands, over 45 percent or
24 170,000,000 acres of Alaska is classified as wetlands in contrast to the
25 other states where only a small percentage of the area is classed as wet-
26 lands; and

27 WHEREAS over 155,000,000 acres of Alaska are already protected in
28 federal conservation units, of which over 56,000,000 acres are wilderness;
29 and

1 WHEREAS the "no net loss wetlands" policy fails to recognize the
2 effects of permafrost in the state as well as the vast areas of the state
3 that cannot be developed; and

4 WHEREAS the wetland areas of the state cover approximately 170,000,000
5 acres and only 80,000 acres, approximately 0.05 percent of the wetlands,
6 have been altered since 1867; and

7 WHEREAS the quantity and the quality of wetlands in the state are not
8 endangered;

9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that George Bush,
10 President of the United States, is respectfully requested to rescind the
11 application to the state of the wetlands Memorandum of Agreement.

12 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
13 President of the United States; Lieutenant General Henry J. Hatch, Chief of
14 Engineers, Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; William K.
15 Reilly, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and to the
16 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and
17 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-
18 tion in Congress.