

1 IN THE SENATE

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2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to federal wilderness areas in

6

Alaska.

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

8 WHEREAS Alaska is now the repository of 62 percent of all federally  
9 designated wilderness; and

10 WHEREAS federal agencies have recommended jointly that 12,100,000  
11 acres be added to the wilderness system, specifically the National Park  
12 Service (6,900,000 acres), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (3,500,000  
13 acres), the U.S. Forest Service (1,700,000 acres) and the Bureau of Land  
14 Management (42,000 acres); and

15 WHEREAS Alaskans believe the present 56,700,000 acre wilderness block  
16 in Alaska is enough to satisfy the Wilderness Preservation Act and the  
17 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and

18 WHEREAS the land under recommendation is presently managed as "de  
19 facto" wilderness and there is no clear or compelling evidence that an  
20 additional layer of protection is needed; and

21 WHEREAS Alaska, with its geography and physical nature, along with its  
22 climate, has an abundance of naturally wild land to satisfy all but the  
23 most intrepid solitude seeker; and

24 WHEREAS Alaska is actively involved in economic diversification  
25 efforts to bring a better quality of life to both urban and rural citizens;  
26 and

27 WHEREAS traditional and customary uses, including but not limited to  
28 subsistence, hunting and fishing, guiding and camping require access and  
29 use of the land; and

1       WHEREAS part of Alaska's diversification effort depends upon tourism  
2 to help create and sustain recreation-based industry and that industry also  
3 requires access, permits, building sites, and other upgrades; and

4       WHEREAS federally-designated wilderness has been proven to limit  
5 access, site-enhancement and recreational opportunities for the majority in  
6 order to benefit solitude requirements of the few; and

7       WHEREAS Alaskans still hold to the promises of statehood in the state  
8 constitution that mandates in art. VIII, sec. 1, "It is the policy of the  
9 state to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its  
10 resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the  
11 public interest";

12       BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature declares that the  
13 increase of federal wilderness area land in the State of Alaska is unneces-  
14 sary, unacceptable, and against the best interests of the residents of the  
15 state; and be it

16       FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary  
17 of Agriculture are requested to state an agreement with the general policy  
18 stated in this resolution.

19       COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Manuel Lujan,  
20 Jr., Secretary of the Interior; and the Honorable Clayton K. Yeutter,  
21 Secretary of Agriculture; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honor-  
22 able Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.  
23 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.