

1 IN THE SENATE

BY STURGULEWSKI

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 39

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to support of the National Park

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Service's proposed Alaska science initi-

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

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WHEREAS the proposed Alaska science initiative of the National Park Service would greatly enhance the scientific research and resource management capability of the National Park Service in the state and would allow the Park Service to compile baseline data about park resources;

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WHEREAS scientific data gathered through the proposed Alaska science initiative would provide benchmarks for measuring changes in resource conditions and for monitoring the effects of global and regional environmental changes; and

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WHEREAS the renewable resources in the national parks and preserves are important to residents of the state for subsistence, sport hunting, sport and commercial fishing, outdoor recreation, and for guiding, outfitting, and other recreational businesses; and

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WHEREAS there will be increasing recognition of the value of national park lands in the state as places uniquely able to provide information important to science; and

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WHEREAS over a five-year period the proposed initiative would add 134 scientists and related resource management and support positions to the National Park Service staff in many locations in the state, placing the improvement and sharing of knowledge at the highest level of emphasis and support among the activities of the National Park Service in Alaska; and

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WHEREAS this increase in federal positions in Alaska would generate,

1 in turn, an estimated 128 private sector positions; and

2 WHEREAS it is the intent of the National Park Service to work closely
3 with the University of Alaska in Anchorage and Fairbanks, with federal and
4 state agencies, and with the private sector to realize mutual benefits that
5 can be achieved by sharing scientific expertise;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the National
7 Park Service's proposed Alaska science initiative and the necessary in-
8 crease in federal funding and staff positions to implement this program.

9 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Manuel Lujan,
10 Jr., Secretary of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
11 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
12 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.