

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

1 IN THE SENATE

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 79

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Supporting the designation of the exist-

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ing Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

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as part of a Joint Alaska-Siberia Inter-

8

national Park.

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

10 WHEREAS on January 9, 1990, the governments of the United States and  
11 the Soviet Union completed a joint feasibility study proposing an interna-  
12 tional park along the Bering Strait; and

13 WHEREAS international park designation would not result in any new  
14 national park land in the state, but would include the existing Bering Land  
15 Bridge National Preserve and land on the Chukotskiy Peninsula in Siberia;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS international park designation, with United States park head-  
18 quarters at Nome, and the resulting increase in communication and travel  
19 between the two nations would support the state's interest in friendly  
20 exchange and in developing tourism, air and ferry travel, and trade with  
21 the Soviet Union; and

22 WHEREAS the people of the Bering Strait region have an ancient heri-  
23 tage of connection through trade, language, family ties, common experience,  
24 and other aspects of their culture; and

25 WHEREAS the continents were once connected by land at the Bering  
26 Strait, and the proximity and common natural and cultural resources of  
27 Northwest Alaska and Siberia offer a special opportunity to cooperate in  
28 scientific research and in protection of a shared heritage; and

29 WHEREAS the designation of an international park would allow for

1 increased cooperation and coordination among park managers and researchers,  
2 and would encourage greater international visitation without affecting the  
3 authorities of each nation to manage its own park land;

4 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the interna-  
5 tional park proposal and encourages continuing professional and technical  
6 exchanges between the two nations; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages  
8 the discussion of the Joint Alaska-Siberia International Park by President  
9 Bush and President Gorbachev at the June, 1990, Summit.

10 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,  
11 President of the United States; to the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr., Secre-  
12 tary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; to James M. Ridenour, Director  
13 of the National Park Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the  
14 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.  
15 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.