

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES CHOQUETTE, G.Phillips, Baker

Introduced: 3/25/91
Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 Endorsing in principle H.R. 1330, the Comprehensive Wetlands Conservation and
2 Management Act of 1991, Congressional legislation proposing a substantial revision of the
3 federal system of wetlands management.

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

5 WHEREAS the Sixteenth Alaska State Legislature approved Legislative Resolve No. 57 urging
6 rescission of the November 1989, Memorandum of Agreement governing federal wetlands policy,
7 development of a federal wetland management policy that recognizes the state's unique circumstances,
8 and formulation of a federal wetland management strategy that recognizes and accommodates resource
9 management activities by the states; and

10 WHEREAS the United States Congress is considering H.R. 1330, the Comprehensive Wetlands
11 Conservation and Management Act of 1991, a measure that would replace sec. 404(a) of the Federal
12 Water Pollution Control Act; and

13 WHEREAS H.R. 1330 proposes a substantial revision of the system of federal wetlands
14 management by providing a system of wetlands classification and by defining the conditions under which
15 permits for development of wetlands in each class may be issued; and

16 WHEREAS the measure recognizes as an element of wetlands management the use of a system

1 of mitigating the loss and degradation of wetland functions, including the development and use of state
2 wetland mitigation banks to achieve significant wetlands values and functions; and

3 **WHEREAS** the proposed legislation would incorporate within the mitigation system the use of
4 credits for certain wetlands that have been placed in those conservation systems; and

5 **WHEREAS** the proposed wetland mitigation credit system would benefit states like Alaska in
6 which wetlands development and encroachment have historically been low and the amount of wetlands
7 receiving protection in national and state conservation areas is substantial; and

8 **WHEREAS** the proposed Comprehensive Wetlands Conservation and Management Act of 1991
9 incorporates provisions protecting the rights of private owners of wetlands and encouraging the
10 establishment of state programs to address wetland resource conservation; and

11 **WHEREAS** H.R. 1330 provides the flexibility necessary to more realistically address the
12 development of Alaska's resources while preserving and protecting the state's wetlands;

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature endorses in principle H.R. 1330, the
14 Comprehensive Wetlands Conservation and Management Act of 1991, and urges its passage by the
15 United States Congress and approval by the President of the United States.

16 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
17 States; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable
18 Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chair of
19 the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable George Miller, Vice-chair and
20 Acting Chair of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr.,
21 Secretary of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.
22 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in
23 Congress.