

**CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16 (ITT)  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TOURISM**

**Offered: 3/1/91  
Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): SENATORS FRANK, Adams, Sturgulewski, Menard, Pearce**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to the international trade in furs.**

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

**3 WHEREAS a substantial number of the products of the United States fur trapping industry have  
4 historically been exported to the member states of the European Community; and**

**5 WHEREAS the European Commission, the executive body of the European Community, has  
6 proposed to ban the importation of furs originating in countries that have not prohibited the use of leg-  
7 hold traps; and**

**8 WHEREAS the European Parliament, the advisory body of the European Community, has  
9 overwhelmingly supported this proposal; and**

**10 WHEREAS the European Commission has forwarded the proposal to the Council of Ministers,  
11 the legislation-enacting body of the European Community; and**

**12 WHEREAS 7 of the 12 countries that comprise the European Community do not prohibit the  
13 use of leg-hold traps; and**

**14 WHEREAS several countries with which Alaska competes in the international fur market provide  
15 indirect subsidies to their producers of farm-raised fur, thereby creating an unfair price advantage for  
16 the subsidized producers and hampering the effective operation of free trade; and**

1       **WHEREAS** the United States does not prohibit the use of leg-hold traps; and

2       **WHEREAS** the enactment of the European Community's proposed ban would have a significant  
3 negative effect on the fur trapping industry in Alaska; and

4       **WHEREAS** a decline in the number of fur-bearing animals that are trapped could lead to  
5 overpopulation of the animals and its accompanying negative effects, including starvation, increased  
6 susceptibility to disease, species stress, and greater suffering; and

7       **WHEREAS** trapping is a traditional harvest method of Alaska Native cultural groups, providing  
8 food and clothing for personal use as well as for trade or barter for other goods;

9       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges the Office of the United  
10 States Trade Representative to accord the highest priority to representing the United States fur trapping  
11 industry by promoting fair and free trade in the industry at all the international trade forums, including  
12 both bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

13       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher, Sr., Secretary  
14 of the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable Carla A. Hills, U.S. Trade Representative; and to  
15 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don  
16 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.