

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16 (ITT)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TOURISM

Offered: 3/29/91

Referred: Labor & Commerce

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

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

7 **WHEREAS** trapping is an established and important economic activity for many other residents
8 of Alaska; and

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

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

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