

HOUSE CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27 (RESOURCES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/11/92

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS FRANK, Pearce, Shultz, Sturgulewski, Uehling, Halford, Collins

REPRESENTATIVES M.A.Miller, M.W.Miller, Sharp, G.Phillips

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to support for the existing federal mining law system.

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

3 WHEREAS the federal government is and will continue to be the largest landowner in the State
4 of Alaska; and

5 WHEREAS 165,400,000 acres of federal Parks, Preserves, wildlife refuges, wilderness, and other
6 federal land in Alaska are already closed to application of the Mining Law of 1872; and

7 WHEREAS 49,600,000 acres of federal land in Alaska are still open to mineral exploration and
8 mining under the Mining Law of 1872; and

9 WHEREAS a healthy mining industry can provide new jobs in many remote parts of Alaska,
10 jobs that are well-paying, year-round, and skilled; and

11 WHEREAS the Mining Law of 1872 has served our nation well since it was first enacted; and

12 WHEREAS the Mining Law of 1872 has been amended many times to accommodate changing
13 conditions; and

14 WHEREAS amendments to specific portions of the Mining Law of 1872, such as increasing the
15 patent fee, may be appropriate to accommodate changing conditions and ensure continued viable
16 opportunities for mineral exploration and development; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Mining Law of 1872 is a land tenure law and the mining industry must comply
2 with numerous state and federal laws concerning water and air quality, reclamation, land management,
3 health and safety; and

4 **WHEREAS** if individuals and companies risk their time and money in search of economic
5 mineral deposits, they must have a reasonable assurance that they will be able to mine the minerals they
6 find; and

7 **WHEREAS** legislation pending before Congress, H.R. 918 and S.433, would fundamentally
8 change the precepts of the Mining Law of 1872 and would significantly hinder or eliminate mining
9 opportunities;

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the basic tenets of the Mining
11 Law of 1872; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to
13 continue to support the basic tenets of the Mining Law of 1872.

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