

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES BARNES, Phillips, Hudson

Introduced: 1/10/94

Referred: Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting the governor's decision to authorize a suit against the United States
2 government for violating the Alaska Statehood Act.

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

4 WHEREAS, when the Territory of Alaska became a state, its citizens ratified a
5 compact with the federal government known as the Alaska Statehood Compact, which is
6 embodied in the Alaska Statehood Act that was passed by the Congress; and

7 WHEREAS compacts such as the Alaska Statehood Act are properly viewed as
8 contracts between sovereigns that may not be unilaterally altered by either party; and

9 WHEREAS the principle that the controlling terms of statehood acts may not be
10 altered unilaterally has been consistently upheld by the United States Supreme Court in
11 Cooper v. Roberts, 59 U.S. (18 How.) 173 (1855); Beecher v. Wetherby, 95 U.S. (5 Otto) 517
12 (1877); and Stearns v. Minnesota ex. rel. Marr, 179 U.S. 223 (1900); and

13 WHEREAS there are sufficient grounds for believing that the federal government has
14 violated this principle by unilaterally altering or attempting to alter important terms of the
15 Alaska Statehood Act;

16 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the decision

- 1 of the governor to authorize suit against the United States government for violating the Alaska
- 2 Statehood Act.