

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20(ITT)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

BY HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TOURISM

Offered: 3/22/93

Referred: Resources

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE BROWN

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the North American Free Trade Agreement.

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

3 WHEREAS great uncertainty exists regarding the effect of the proposed North
4 American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on state laws and regulations pertaining to
5 recycling, labeling, and other product and process standards; and

6 WHEREAS NAFTA could effectively challenge the concept of states' rights under the
7 United States Constitution by preempting state and local laws on investment, job creation,
8 consumer protection, the environment, community lending, bank regulation, and insurance; and

9 WHEREAS environmental protection laws and regulations of Alaska and other states
10 could be interpreted under NAFTA as trade barriers; and

11 WHEREAS NAFTA calls for harmonization of national and state standards, which
12 could lead to mandatory reduction of product standards to the lowest common international
13 product standards; and

14 WHEREAS NAFTA could potentially preclude preferential treatment of Alaska
15 residents and Alaska products in state procurement; and

16 WHEREAS NAFTA could limit a state's flexibility when offering special programs,
17 subsidies, or investment incentives to its domestic industries, such as fish hatcheries; and

1 **WHEREAS** the most recent estimate by the International Trade Commission is that
2 the United States could lose 170,000 jobs if NAFTA is approved; and

3 **WHEREAS** dispute resolution procedures under NAFTA are confidential and restricted
4 by federal officials, and state and local participation is absent;

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the President and the
6 United States Congress, before making a decision on NAFTA and not during a fast-track
7 approach to the decision, to develop a vision of international trade that safeguards the
8 constitutional and economic standing of the individual states of the United States and that is
9 based on a full assessment of the economic, environmental, and legal effects on states; and
10 be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that states should be
12 included as full partners in dispute resolution under NAFTA and that states' interests should
13 be vigorously defended when disputes arise; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
15 Congress to obtain modifications to the North American Free Trade Agreement in order to
16 protect the existing rights of states, where not precluded by federal law, to manage their
17 natural resources and environment, to encourage their economic development, and to protect
18 their citizens.

19 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
20 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Vice-President of the United States and President of
21 the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate;
22 the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable
23 Ron Brown, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable Bruce Babbitt,
24 Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; the Honorable Mike Espy, Secretary of the
25 U.S. Department of Agriculture; the Honorable Carol M. Browner, Administrator of the U.S.
26 Environmental Protection Agency; the Honorable Mickey Kantor, U.S. Trade Representative;
27 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and
28 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in
29 Congress.