

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/21/94
Referred: RES, JUD, FIN

A RESOLUTION

1 **Requesting the governor to offer the United States Congress \$10,000,000,000 in**
2 **cash, or other terms that may be negotiated between the state and the federal**
3 **government, to purchase all federal land, water, or land and water, including any**
4 **surface or subsurface interests, in Alaska other than military reservations and**
5 **federal offices, to have the federal government relinquish all dominion, control,**
6 **and regulatory authority over all land, water, or land and water, including**
7 **surface or subsurface interests, in Alaska other than military reservations and**
8 **federal offices, and providing a bonus if certain federal agencies are removed**
9 **from the state within six months of the federal sale to the state and**
10 **relinquishment of control.**

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

12 **WHEREAS, when the Territory of Alaska became a state, its citizens ratified a**
13 **compact with the federal government known as the Alaska Statehood Compact, which is**

1 embodied in the Alaska Statehood Act that was passed by the Congress; and

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

4 **WHEREAS** the principle that the controlling terms of statehood acts may not be
5 altered unilaterally has been consistently upheld by the United States Supreme Court in
6 *Cooper v. Roberts*, 59 U.S. (18 How.) 173 (1855); *Beecher v. Wetherby*, 95 U.S. (5 Otto) 517
7 (1877); and *Stearns v. Minnesota ex. rel. Marr*, 179 U.S. 223 (1900); and

8 **WHEREAS** there are sufficient grounds for believing that the federal government has
9 violated this principle by unilaterally altering or attempting to alter important terms of the
10 Alaska Statehood Act and the Alaska Statehood Compact; and

11 **WHEREAS** a fair and proper resolution of this dispute may be for the state to
12 purchase or otherwise buy out the United States' interest in land, water, or land and water,
13 including all surface or subsurface interests, in Alaska;

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the governor to offer
15 the United States Congress \$10,000,000,000, in cash or other terms that may be negotiated
16 between the state and the federal government, to (1) purchase all federal land, water, or land
17 and water, including all surface or subsurface interests, in Alaska other than military
18 reservations and federal offices; and (2) have the federal government relinquish all dominion,
19 control, and federal regulatory authority over all land, water, or land and water, including all
20 surface or subsurface interests, in Alaska other than military reservations and federal offices;
21 and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature will pay to the federal
23 government \$500,000,000 if the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of
24 the Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and
25 all of their personnel, are removed from the state within six months of the (1) closing of the
26 sale of all federal land, water, or land and water, including all surface and subsurface interests,
27 and (2) relinquishment of all dominion, control, and regulatory authority over all land, water,
28 or land and water, including all surface or subsurface interests, in Alaska, as provided in this
29 resolution.