

HJR


10

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ALASKA CONSERVATION SOCIETY

UPPER COOK INLET
CHAPTER
BOX 3395
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
99501

March 1, 1975



Rep. Terry Gardiner, Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Terry:

The Upper Cook Inlet Chapter of the Alaska Conservation Society strongly supports HJR 10 - An Environmental Bill of Rights, Constitutional Amendment. We urge your committee to report favorably on the resolution and to press for passage in both houses of the Legislature.

The need and rationale for this action has been well expressed by Dr. Charles Konigsberg on several occasions including the Dinner for Legislators held in January in Anchorage and sponsored by the Upper Cook Inlet Chapter and the local and state Sierra Club organizations. The Upper Cook Inlet Chapter represents more than 100 Anchorage area citizens. All present and future generations of Alaskans will be the beneficiaries if favorable action is taken this year.

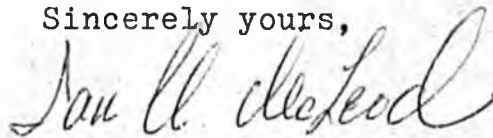
Now is certainly the time to add these needed safeguards to the Alaska Constitution - before serious inroads have been made on our near pristine Alaskan air, lands and waters. As you well know our State is poised on the brink of a massive effort to extract and develop its oil, gas and mineral resources. Alaskans must have the assurance that in the process we will not be called upon to sacrifice our rights to a clean and liveable environment. This Environmental Bill of Rights must be considered as a necessary companion to other legislation which will be acted upon this session in order to foster and control wise land and resource use by the oil industry and other extractive industries. It is especially important that favorable action on HJR 10 precede the large influx

of population which the State can expect which will bring increased pressures to our rural and urban environments.

As a Constitutional amendment, it will serve as an expression of our environmental and social goals and will thus guide our development and growth, and our efforts to formulate land and water use plans with the fullest respect for the people's need for and right to the highest quality of air, land and water. It will provide the most effective assurance that the maximum possible protection will be given to Alaska's natural resources, wildlife, scenic beauty and opportunity for quiet - those qualities which have attracted a major portion of us to choose Alaska as our home.

We urge your committee to act favorably on HJR 10 and to work for passage in both houses of the legislature. It is vitally important that the State take this action to recognize the rights of its citizens. We are fortunate in Alaska in being able to provide assurance of these rights. Elsewhere they have already been denied by the thoughtless actions of countless numbers of people and organizations.

Sincerely yours,



Ian W. McLeod, President
Upper Cook Inlet Chapter, ACS

cc: Members of the House
Judiciary Committee
Also:

Rep. Susan Sullivan
Rep. Nels Anderson
Rep. Mike Bradner
Rep. Brenda Itta
Rep. Mike Hershberger
Rep. James Huntington