

HJR

14



# Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE DICK SHULTZ

Member  
Finance Committee

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
FROM: REP. DICK SHULTZ *DS*  
DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 1989  
RE: HJR 14

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I have introduced this resolution to lend support for DEC in helping to solve the solid waste problems facing Alaska.

If the proposed federal regulations go into effect as written, it will cause great hardship on landfill managers in Alaska. In our smaller rural areas there are few if any alternatives available for waste disposal.

What that means is existing dumps are our only solution until they are phased out and replaced with practical, economically viable alternatives. Until that time, we can not afford to stand by and let EPA eliminate our landfills.

Dec is working to put into place programs geared to individual needs and resources. These programs will work over time and time is what this Resolution is asking EPA for.

The request is based on Alaska being somewhat unique with many remote communities. Heavy duty big brother enforcement will only backfire and cost the state more in the long run while causing more widespread damage to the environment.

Any support for this important message to EPA will be most sincerely appreciated.

**FISCAL NOTE**

**REQUEST:**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency Affected: DNR  
 Title: Solid Waste Management in the Arctic BRU: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Components: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Requestor: House Resources Committee

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)**

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CONTRACTUAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
SUPPLIES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
EQUIPMENT	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
LAND & STRUCTURES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
GRANTS, CLAIMS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
MISCELLANEOUS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

<b>CAPITAL</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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<b>REVENUE</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
OTHER	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
<b>TOTAL</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

**ANALYSIS :** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: House Resources Committee (pm) Phone: 465-4494  
 Division: Representative Curt Menard, Chairman Date: 2/21/89

Approved by Commissioner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution (by preparer):  
 Legislative Finance  
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 Office of Management and Budget  
 (Appropriate Agencies)



# Alaska Environmental Lobby, Inc.

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## AEL ISSUE PAPER - HJR 14 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE ARCTIC

The Alaska Environmental Lobby is in general agreement with the concept of House Joint Resolution 14, but believes that it should create a greater impetus to search for solutions than it does at present.

While we appreciate the Environmental Protection Agency's motives in closing all solid waste facilities that do not meet regulatory requirements, we also realize that severe environmental and logistical constraints limit the development and operation of disposal facilities in much of rural Alaska. There are no easy answers in finding a new place to dump villages' trash. The EPA should be flexible in managing solid waste disposal in the state's small, remote communities. Too frequently, the closure or absence of a landfill in rural communities has meant that, for lack of a better alternative, garbage is thrown into the nearest convenient spot or left to wash away. Obviously, this is not the answer.

We agree that state agencies and villages need more time to develop a long-term approach to solid waste management than the few months allowed under the EPA's current agenda. Still, a complete exemption from EPA's rules -as requested in HJR 14- does not give either the state or villages the incentive to aggressively pursue solutions. We suggest that a temporary exemption, requiring continuing state review of alternative solutions, would prevent random and disorganized disposal and encourage communities to seek answers.

In addition, we are unclear about the definition of "remote and isolated communities." These are relative terms and do not necessarily prevent a community from meeting EPA standards; for example, Nome and Quinhagak are in very different situations and have varying resources with which to attack the solid waste problem, yet both may be considered remote and isolated.

With these few changes, the Alaska Environmental Lobby would speak strongly in favor of HJR 14. We are interested in the state's agenda and strategy for grappling with the waste management problem, any potential for funding, and who will be affected by these actions.

House Resources Committee  
February 21, 1989  
Karen Wood and Larry Landry

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(9)

Date Referred: January 18, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS: HESS

Date of Committee Action: 2-21-89

The RESOURCES Committee recommends that:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14 [SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE ARCTIC]  
Relating to solid waste management in remote and isolated Arctic communities.

[ ] be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] the same title  
[ ] a new title

[ ] have attached amendment(s)

- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

- fiscal impact
- zero fiscal note
- zero with analysis

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

- fiscal note(s) published: \_\_\_\_\_
- zero fiscal notes(s) published: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING DO PASS:

Curt W. Munch  
Clay Davidson  
Mike Truane  
Richard (Bob) D. [unclear]  
Walt Burnace  
[unclear]

SIGNING OTHER THAN DO PASS:  
(Do Not Pass, No Recommendation, Amend)

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Curt W. Munch  
Chairman's signature