

**H J R**

**28**

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

3/8  
Rules

(9)  
Date Referred: March 1, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 3-7-89

The RESOURCES Committee considered:

HJR 28

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28 [BERINGIA INTERNATIONAL BIOSPHERE RESERVE]  
Relating to the Beringia International Biosphere Reserve.

### RECOMMENDS:

- replacing with CS HJR 28 (RES)  the same title
- the attached amendment(s)  a new title
- 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:  
DNR 3/1/89

### SIGNING DO PASS:

Cliff Davidson DAVIDSON  
Samuel J. Menard MENARD  
Mike Davis M. DAVIS  
Richard J. Foster FOSTER  
Bob Sharp SHARP  
George Jacko JACKO

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

W. Furnace no rec FURNACE

Cliff Davidson  
CO- Chairman's signature

STATE OF ALASKA  
1989 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: HJR 28  
PUBLISH DATE: HOUSE 3/1/89

No. 1

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 28-Feb-89 Agency Affected: Natural Resources  
 Title: Relating to the Beringia BRU: Management & Administration  
International Biosphere Reserve  
 Sponsor: M.Davis,Foster,Koponen,Brown, Components: Commissioners Office  
and Navarre  
 Requestor: House Special Committee on Foreign Trade and Resources

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND&STRUCTURES						
GRANTS,CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0.0					

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Larry Ostrovsky Phone: 465-2400  
 Division: Commissioner's Office Date: 28-Feb-89  
 Approved by Commissioner: Lennie Gorsuch Date: 28-Feb-89  
 Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Distribution (by preparer) :  
 Legislative Finance  
 Legislative Sponsor  
 Requestor  
 Office of Management and Budget  
 Impacted Agency(ies)

Original sponsors: M.Davis, Foster,  
Koponen, et al.

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28 (Resources)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the Beringia International  
6 Biosphere Reserve.

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

8 WHEREAS the state has made a commitment to increasing Alaska-Soviet  
9 cooperation in trade, tourism, and international goodwill; and

10 WHEREAS former President Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev  
11 agreed in principle at the 1987 Summit to encourage expanded contacts,  
12 cooperation, and bilateral agreements on issues relating to the Arctic,  
13 including cooperation of scientific research and management of the region's  
14 natural resources; and

15 WHEREAS the area of the Bering Strait region once formed a land bridge  
16 between Siberia and Alaska, and today is the meeting place of continents;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS the effects of the connection between Siberia and Alaska are  
19 seen throughout the Beringian region in fossils of plants and animals,  
20 polar bears, migratory birds and marine mammals who roam freely from one  
21 continent to the other, in the artifacts of ancient peoples and present  
22 Eskimo family ties, and in commercial fishermen who share the same re-  
23 sources; and

24 WHEREAS a Beringia Natural Heritage Program has been proposed that  
25 would foster greater mutual understanding and cooperation between the  
26 peoples of the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. and this program includes as a goal  
27 the designation of a biosphere reserve in the area; and

28 WHEREAS the purpose of a biosphere reserve is to have people cooperate  
29 in solving resource problems, share knowledge, improve management of

1 natural resources, monitor natural and human-caused changes, perpetuate and  
2 learn from traditional forms of land use, and conserve biological resources  
3 that are of unique and outstanding value; and

4 WHEREAS biosphere reserves, as part of a global network, encourage  
5 international participation and scientific research, and are multipurpose,  
6 and such a designation would be a symbolic recognition of the shared  
7 Beringian heritage; and

8 WHEREAS local people benefit from biosphere reserves from protection  
9 of basic resources, improved land management skills, a more productive and  
10 diverse economic base, additional employment, more influence in land-use  
11 decisions, and continued opportunities to maintain their existing ways of  
12 living; and

13 WHEREAS similar environments and resources should encourage close  
14 working relationships and communications and scientists of both nations  
15 have already managed joint expeditions, studies, and symposia that have  
16 contributed to international stewardship; and

17 WHEREAS further cooperative efforts would include a sharing of techni-  
18 cal and planning data, exchanges of scientific and technical experts,  
19 joint, multidisciplinary study teams, and student and volunteer exchanges;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS the Beringian region consists of land in the already existing  
22 Noatak and Bering Land Bridge National Preserves that could serve as the  
23 land base for the Alaska side of the biosphere reserve and the Chukotsk  
24 Peninsula on the Soviet side, and portions of the Bering Sea joining the  
25 Alaska and Soviet portions and such a designation would simply be an over-  
26 lay on other existing land uses; and

27 WHEREAS because of similar environments, shared migratory wildlife,  
28 and human histories intertwined from earliest times, the U.S. and Soviet  
29 segments of Beringia form a natural and cultural entity;

1 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports initial work  
2 of the people of Alaska and the Governor, the people of the Magadan Terri-  
3 tory, and the respective Soviet and United States national committees for  
4 "Man and the Biosphere" towards the designation of the Beringia Inter-  
5 national Biosphere Reserve due to its extremely rich and unique biological  
6 and cultural resources.

7 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,  
8 President of the United States; to the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr., Secre-  
9 tary of the Interior; to William Mott, Director of the National Park Ser-  
10 vice; to Boyd Evison, Regional Director of the National Park Service,  
11 Anchorage; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank  
12 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,  
13 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.



# Alaska State Legislature

Representative Mike Davis

District 19

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To: House Resources Committee members

From: Representative Mike Davis

Date: March 6, 1989

Re: HJR 28  
Beringia International Biosphere Reserve

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During the Moscow Summit in May of 1972, President Nixon and General Secretary Brezhnev developed the "Basic Principles of Relations Between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.", in which the improvement of U.S.- Soviet relations was the central issue.

In 1987 at the Washington summit, President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev agreed in principle to "encourage expanded contacts and cooperation on issues relating to the Arctic... including cooperation of scientific research...of the region's environment."

HJR 28 would cover all those points, in just that spirit of cooperation. Here is an opportunity for Alaska and the Magadan Territory to work together for common goal.

The Beringian area is the Seward peninsula on the Alaska side and the Chukotsk peninsula on the Soviet side, and the portion of the Bering Sea joining the two. It is an area of outstanding biological and cultural values. A proposed Beringia International Biosphere designation would recognize this rich and unique area, encourage joint scientific research, and provide unprecedented opportunity for promoting mutual understanding between the U.S.S.R and the U.S for wise stewardship of shared resources.

A Biosphere Reserve would not change in any way the current status, such as subsistence use. Such a designation is simply an overlay on other existing land uses. In addition, local people benefit from Reserves in several other ways: more influence in land-use decisions, improved land management, and continued opportunities to maintain their existing ways of life.