

SCR

18

Alaska State Legislature



Senate Majority Leader
Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Committee on Community &
Regional Affairs

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Senator Robin L. Taylor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Robin L. Taylor wants the Governor to buy Alaska from the federal government for \$10 billion.

That's the essence of Senate Concurrent Resolution 18, introduced in the Alaska State Senate today. The resolution calls for negotiations between the State and the U.S. Congress for the purchase of all federal land, water or land and water, not including military reservations and federal offices.

The resolution would offer a \$500,000 bonus if the feds also remove the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture and all their personnel from Alaska.

SCR 18 says the federal government has violated the Alaska Statehood Compact and calls the buy-out proposal "a fair and proper resolution of this dispute".

"A compact is a contract and may not be unilaterally altered by either party", Taylor said. "The federal government has violated this principle. I don't think its far fetched to offer to settle this contract dispute by buying out one of the partners."

Taylor said the buy-out would include surface and subsurface rights and would call for the United States government to relinquish all dominion, control and regulatory authority over federal land in Alaska.

(more)

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The Senate Majority Leader pointed out that \$10 billion would go a long way in helping to balance the federal budget and said he thought it would be a small price to pay to end federal interference in the development of Alaska.

"This isn't offered tongue-in-cheek", Taylor said. "I'd like to see how the feds respond to a legitimate offer to settle our differences in the time-honored way...cash on the barrel head".

Asked how he would fund the buy-out, Taylor said that decision would be made if and when Congress indicated it was interested in negotiating the proposal.

"The money is there if Alaska really wants to buy out the federal government, " Taylor said.

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(Editors and News Directors: Copy of SCR 18 follows.)