

**SJR**

**16**

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

## First Committee of Referral

DATE: 2/18/97

FURTHER:

Date of 5-Day Notice: 2/27/97  
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 3/11/97

Resource Committee considered      SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

Relating to reauthorization and reform of the Endangered Species Act.

and recommends:

- be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ CS SJR 16 ( RES )
- adopt previous \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- further referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

- Senate Bill:**  
 same title  
 new title  
**House Bill:**  
 same title  
 technical title  
 new: SCR# \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>Man L. Taylor</i>	✓				
<i>Drew D. Kuman</i>	✓				
<i>Bob Mack</i>	✓				
<i>Fred R. ...</i>	✓				
<b>CHAIR:</b> <i>Rick Halford</i>	✓	<b>CHAIR:</b>			

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
<i>S. Resources</i>	<i>3/4</i>	<i>X</i>	

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):\***

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

\*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SJR 16

Revision Date 2/18/97 Dept. Affected \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title Reform the Endangered Species Act BRU \_\_\_\_\_  
 Component \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor Leman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Requester \_\_\_\_\_ Component Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES [ ]</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1091 Designated Program Receipts						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY97) cost: 0.0

**POSITIONS**

POSITIONS	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

This resolution has no fiscal impact on state departments.

Prepared by Senate Resources Committee  
 Division \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approved by Senator Rick Halford, Chairman  
 Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 465-4907  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date 3/4/97

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# SENATOR LOREN LEMAN

Northwest Anchorage

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## Sponsor Statement SJR 16

"Relating to Re-authorization and Reform of the Endangered Species Act."

\*\*\*\*\*

Senate Joint Resolution 16 supports the efforts of our Congressional delegation, and other states, in reforming the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The ESA was passed by Congress in 1973 and has been amended several times. The basic premise of the ESA is to prevent the extinction of species.

It is unfortunate that examples of governmental abuse of power can be found alongside the successes of the ESA. SJR 16 recommends that the re-authorized Act assure partnership with the states and protection of private property rights.

SJR 16 requests the re-authorized Act not include: 1) any expansion of federal authority; 2) implementation of the complicated Biodiversity Treaty; or 3) any new biological diversity reserve system.

Alaska has more to lose in this debate than most states because of our resource-based economy. Examples of the ESA invoked to halt economic activity include a lawsuit filed by Greenpeace to shut down the eastern Gulf of Alaska pollock fishery, and proposals by the U.S. Forest Service to list the Alexander Archipelago Wolf and the Queen Charlotte Goshawk as threatened.

AM #1

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN SENATE RESOURCES

By Senator Leman

TO: SJR 16

Page 2, line 21, replace paragraph (5) with new paragraphs (5) and (6) and renumber following paragraphs accordingly.

(5) timely and mandatory delisting once recovery plan population objectives have been met;

(6) clarify the definition of "species" to limit the listing of "distinct population segments" to evolutionarily significant units and major segments of a species range;



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## TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

### SJR 16: relating to reauthorization and reform of the Endangered Species Act

The Alaska Environmental Lobby cannot support the recommended changes to the existing federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) called for in SJR 16. The Endangered Species Act was written not only to prevent species extinction, but also to allow for their recovery. SJR 16 recommends changes to the existing ESA that would severely hamper the recovery of many endangered species in the United States.

- **Abuse of Authority:** it is a sweeping generalization to suggest that the federal agencies have "often misused their authority" under the ESA; what are specific examples of this misuse by Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service that have occurred in Alaska?
- **Administrative Reforms:** to state that reforms have either not been implemented or have been wholly inadequate is inaccurate; almost every one of the reforms proposed by the Clinton administration in April, 1995, has been implemented, including policies on the role of state agencies, recreational fisheries, peer review, and recovery plan participation and implementation.
- **Listing requirements:** to call for stricter *scientific and quantitative* criteria for listing is simply a way of saying only empirical data can be used for judging a species' status. This position ignores the fact that modeling to estimate wildlife populations is an accepted scientific method, i.e. qualitative criteria is as valid as quantitative in many situations.

OVER

- **Distinct Population Segments:** to eliminate this concept from the definition of "species" ignores the reality that geographically or genetically isolated populations exist that can require protection to ensure survival despite the existence of healthy populations in distant locales. This concept is important to Alaskans dependent on salmon to ensure the continued health of genetically distinct runs.
- **Cost of Recovery Implementation:** to ensure species recovery, a scientifically based recovery plan must be completed; to politicize these plans and limit them to the least costly may be advantageous for short-term monetary gain and political popularity, but may very likely fail to protect the species in the long term.

Until Alaskans are provided specific examples of how the ESA is unduly burdensome for us to support, the Alaska Environmental Lobby cannot support the changes called for in this resolution. Short-term convenience and economic gain cannot compensate for the ultimate negative impacts on all our plant and animal species if the ESA is weakened.

Susan Schrader, Executive Director  
March 5, 1997