

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 5

TO THE HONORABLE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES; TO HONORABLE HAROLD L. ICKES, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR; AND TO THE HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT, DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in the Seventeenth Regular Session assembled, does most respectfully represent:

WHEREAS, this Legislature now convened is desirous of protecting the resources of Alaska, not only to assure livelihood for present residents but also to give opportunity within Alaska to War Veterans and civilian settlers after this present war; and,

WHEREAS, reindeer constitute the only agricultural resource of the great tundra lands of Western Alaska between Bristol Bay and Barrow; their skins are vitally needed by all residents for winter outer garments, sleeping bags, and other essential uses, and full development of the mineral, fur and game resources will be retarded without reindeer skins; they are essential for fresh meat, particularly during war periods as food for both soldiers and civilians in event shipping lanes are cut by enemy action; they have furnished 44,000,000 pounds of meat, worth an estimated \$8,880,000 to residents since original breeding stock was imported and, since the war, at least 75 tons have been used by the United States Army, defense workers and Government institutions and personnel; they are the only domesticated meat animals known to man which are able to convert the plants of this cold tundra land into valuable animal products by digging their own food from beneath the snow; and,

WHEREAS, the caribou, wild deer, moose and wild sheep of Alaska have been worth millions of dollars to residents thereof in food, clothing, receipts from hunters and in tourist travel stimulated by the presence of such species, but these animals appear doomed to extinction unless wolves and coyotes are reduced by prompt action of the Federal Government before they have destroyed these valuable species, or have reduced breeding stock so much that recovery will take generations, it being self-evident that these predators, because of having large litters and their ceaseless killing, tend naturally to increase more rapidly than their prey until they are reduced only by the scarcity and final destruction of such prey; and,

WHEREAS, wolves and coyotes have already caused reindeer to decrease from about 641,000 to 90,000 since 1932; have destroyed wild deer and moose in some sections; and are believed to have caused reduction of caribou in this Territory; and,

WHEREAS, the Territory of Alaska is making every effort within its power to destroy wolves and coyotes by paying high bounties thereon, but this has failed to reduce them in our great Alaska wilderness, where airplanes are essential for wolf killing and for transporting Government hunters; and,

WHEREAS, the National Park Service of the Interior Department, notwithstanding the costly destruction caused by wolves and coyotes or the efforts being made by this Territory to destroy them, is breeding these destructive creatures in great refuges, namely, in approximately 6,700,000 acres of scattered national parks and monuments, by preventing any killing of them therein; and,

WHEREAS, destruction of wolves and coyotes on reindeer ranges requires indirect attack on them by constant reindeer herding, and direct attack by use of suitable aircraft and other means, for which Natives and the Office of Indian Affairs lack funds; and,

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Biological Survey has not been appropriated sufficient money for predator control in Alaska:

NOW, THEREFORE, your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Seventeenth Regular Session assembled, respectfully petitions the National Government: to increase the appropriation of the Office of Indian Affairs to an amount needed to support herding schools for Natives at all reindeer herds, and to purchase and operate suitable aircraft for supervising herding and killing predators; to increase the appropriation of the Bureau of Biological Survey to an amount needed for full-scale attack on predators within Alaska; and to remove all restrictions upon killing wolves and coyotes within national parks and monuments in this Territory.

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

Passed by the Senate February 19, 1945.

Passed by the House March 15, 1945.