

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 61

**Relating to the safeguarding of homesteader rights through the establishment of an independent Board of Public Lands Appeals.**

**Be It Resolved by the Senate:**

WHEREAS there exists no effective right to appeal decisions by the Bureau of Land Management and the Geological Survey concerning the uses of or claims to public lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS the lack of such an effective right of appeal adversely affects many actual and potential public land users in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the lack of such an effective right of appeal thwarts the carrying out of the Acts of Congress governing the uses of the public lands; and

WHEREAS this lack of an effective right to appeal has existed for too many years and should be promptly remedied; and

WHEREAS a bill to correct these inequities has been introduced in the Senate of the United States by Alaska's Senators, the Honorable Ernest Gruening and the Honorable E. L. Bartlett, and other Senators; and

WHEREAS this corrective legislation would establish a Board of Public Lands Appeals to hear locally appeals from decisions by the Bureau of Land Management and the Geological Survey concerning the uses or claims to public lands; and

WHEREAS untold numbers of homesteaders in Alaska, in making original application for land patents, have been ad-

vised of the alleged proper procedure to follow by representatives of the Bureau of Land Management only to discover at a later date that such procedure was not proper and that as a result their patent application is invalid; and

WHEREAS such careless actions have caused homesteaders in Alaska to experience undue hardships and mental anguish; and

WHEREAS such hardships have cost said homesteaders wasted hours of labor and wasted expenditures of money; and

WHEREAS such action by a federal agency is intolerable, unnecessary, and inexcusable; and

WHEREAS such irresponsible actions point up the long overdue need for corrective measures;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate supports legislation establishing a Board of Public Lands Appeals established as an independent agency outside the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior to hear appeals from decisions rendered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Geological Survey concerning the uses or claims to public lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Department of the Interior, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Alaska Congressional delegation.

Passed by the Senate April 4, 1963.

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 62

**Commending efforts for scheduling the national ski events at Mount Alyeska.**

**Be It Resolved by the Senate:**

WHEREAS, beginning on April 4, Alaska will serve as host to outstanding ski organizations and individuals from throughout the Nation who will be participating in the 1963 U. S. National Alpine Championships

and Olympic Tryouts at Mount Alyeska; and

WHEREAS this will be the first time Alaska has played host to a national sports event; and

WHEREAS the basic responsibility for arrangements for staging this national sport event has been with Alaska skiers;