



Alaska State Legislature

1971

Source:

SCSHJR 4

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Relating to settlement of the Alaska Native land claims.

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

WHEREAS the Alaska Legislature, in enacting the Alaska Native Land Claims State Settlement Act of 1968, AS 38.30, has declared the state's policy "to join with the federal government in a legislative effort to provide a fair, speedy and equitable method for the settlement and satisfaction of the Alaska Native land claims", and proposed a program of joint federal and state legislative action to settle the land claims; and

WHEREAS the immediate need for a fair and just settlement of the land claims is of the utmost importance to and is in the best interests of every Alaskan, whether the basis of his concern or motivation is justice, legality, the state's social or economic welfare, or otherwise; and

WHEREAS a generous federal grant of land and money to the Alaska Natives, in compensation for rights extinguished by legislation, is essential to meaningfully provide them the option of joining the social and economic mainstream of Alaskan life; and

WHEREAS the United States Department of the Interior has established a "freeze" on the transfer of lands in Alaska until June 30, 1971 to allow time for Congressional action to settle the land rights of the Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, although the state recognizes that Congress has historically assumed the responsibility for settling land claims, the legislature nevertheless anticipates making a reasonable state contribution to the settlement;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Seventh Alaska State Legislature, in recognition of the vital importance of this issue to Alaska, indeed to all of the United States, strongly urges the Congress of the United States to enact a fair, generous and early settlement of the Alaska Native land claims, and expresses its intent to participate and cooperate in such a settlement.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Spiro T. Agnew, Vice President of the United States; the Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Henry M. Jackson, U. S. Senator and Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U. S. Senate; the Honorable Wayne N. Aspinall, U. S. Representative and Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U. S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.