



# Alaska State Legislature

1972

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 90

Relating to implementation of the Alaska Statehood Act.

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

WHEREAS on January 3, 1959, Alaska was formally admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the other states; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of the Alaska Statehood Act, the state was granted the right to select 103 million acres of land, to have and to hold on behalf of all her people; and

WHEREAS, although Alaska was granted 25 years within which to select the acreage it desired, the Secretary of the Interior, eight years after statehood, imposed a "land freeze", thereby delaying further implementation of that portion of the Statehood Act; and

WHEREAS the restriction on further land selection affected the growth of Alaska's economic base and denied its people the freedom and dignity that the sovereignty granted by statehood was to accomplish; and

WHEREAS the recent passage of the Native Claims Settlement Act by the United States Congress had the salutary effect of removing the so-called "land freeze", allowing the state to continue the implementation of the Statehood Act; and

WHEREAS in recent days Governor William A. Egan has announced the selection of all but a small portion of the balance of the 103 million acres to which the state is entitled; and

WHEREAS the Governor's action has been hailed by citizens throughout the state, including a strong endorsement by the

President of the Alaska Federation of Natives; and

WHEREAS all Alaskans will now have the opportunity to enjoy the economic and social benefits which is their rightful entitlement as citizens of a sovereign state;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that its members hereby express their support and approval of Governor William A. Egan's forthright and timely action in selecting the lands to which we have long been entitled; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Interior is respectfully requested to consult and confer with the appropriate officials of the State of Alaska before making any final decisions regarding the lands to be withdrawn under the Native Claims Settlement Act by the Department.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Rogers C.B. Morton, Secretary, Department of the Interior; 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.