



# Alaska State Legislature

1976

Source:

SCR 77

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 77

Relating to the establishment of a comprehensive and meaningful agricultural policy for the State of Alaska.

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

WHEREAS without a state policy, boldly set out and strongly backed by the people, the Legislature, and the Executive, little can or will be done to establish agriculture in Alaska as an economically worthwhile endeavor; and

WHEREAS a sound and sustained agricultural production, processing and marketing industry is necessary to the healthy economic life and future well-being of Alaska; and

WHEREAS no geographic entity has ever attained lasting greatness through extractive resource production alone; and

WHEREAS the agricultural potential of the Great Land is perhaps its single most significant prospect for a stable future - a point clearly and emphatically made in three federal-state university studies: (1) "Development of New Lands in Matanuska-Susitna Borough", 1970; (2) "Irrigation Potentials, Tanana River Valley, Alaska", 1972; and (3) "Alaska's Agricultural Potential", 1974; and

WHEREAS, given any one of many possible natural disasters - prolonged drought, floods, virulent disease among plants and animals, extreme climatic change, unpredictable weather in the continental United States - Alaska, because it is at the end of the nation's food system, would suffer the most direct and immediate impact; and

WHEREAS Alaska is known to have at least 17.5 million acres of tillable land, plus at least 10 million more acres of conventional grazing land for potential agricultural use, as well as 100 million acres of land suitable for reindeer and musk-ox grazing; and

WHEREAS in the past there has been a lack of coordination of government programs and policies regarding agriculture; and

WHEREAS Alaska now produces less than five per cent of the food it consumes annually, agriculture, as a resource management tool, could provide a much larger percentage of the state's basic consumer needs in food, fiber, industrial raw materials, and aesthetic products at a reasonable price;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the State of Alaska hereby commits itself to an agricultural policy that encourages and promotes wise use of its agricultural base, including, but not limited to the following courses of action:

(1) The state shall promptly determine how best to make available land for agricultural use.

(2) The state shall encourage agricultural production, processing, and marketing through identification and use of massive amounts of potentially recyclable waste energy.

(3) In connection with the commitment of "in kind" state royalties of oil and gas, provision shall be made for the production of reasonably priced fertilizer and fuel for local Alaska use.

(4) The state shall demand that all land identified in "Alaska's Agricultural Potential", 1974, as having tillable agriculture potential be removed from D-2 classification, and, in the national interest, be set aside for future agricultural production.

(5) The state shall actively encourage the production of phosphate, limestone, and fish meal resources in Alaska for use in agricultural production.

(6) The state shall actively assist in the establishment and financing of agriculture processing plants in key agricultural areas of the state to encourage local farm production.

(7) The state agencies shall work closely with private land owners, native regional corporations, village corporations, and other management organizations to stimulate agricultural production, processing and marketing.

(8) The Legislature, in cooperation with the Governor, shall establish a task force, composed of representatives of agriculture, business, and consumer interests, which shall be responsible for the study of legislative options for implementing the policies enunciated in this resolution.