



Alaska State Legislature

1976

Source:

SR 5

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5

Recommending that the western watershed of Glacier Bay National Monument be removed from the effects of S. 2371.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS Glacier Bay National Monument was created by Presidential Proclamation No. 1733 of February 26, 1925; and

WHEREAS, in 1936 after ten years of trying to open the Monument to mining, the Congress of the United States adopted the Act of June 22, 1936 which rendered the mineral deposits in the Monument, exclusive of the land containing them, subject to location entry, patent and disposal under the mining laws of the United States and under regulations by the Secretary of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, in reliance on this law, 270 unpatented mining and millsite locations and 20 patented claims have been established within the Monument; and

WHEREAS nickel is one of the critical minerals in which the nation is in short supply from domestic sources; and

WHEREAS the National Commission on the Materials Policy in its latest report, as well as the Secretary of Interior, has stressed the need for development of domestic resources now; and

WHEREAS mining claims within the Monument are said to contain resources of one billion pounds of nickel and 600 million pounds of copper; and

WHEREAS the bulk of this deposit is in the western watershed of the Monument in rugged and inaccessible country west of a line extending north-northwesterly from the west shoreline of Taylor

Bay, along the easterly limits of the rock outcrops and nunataks on the west side of Brady Glacier, to the large rock outcrop (elevation 4,148) at the divide between Brady Glacier and Reid Glacier; and

WHEREAS the Senate of the United States has passed S. 2371 which would, among other things, repeal the Act of June 22, 1936 relating to mining in Glacier Bay National Monument; and

WHEREAS the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska, at a meeting held during the week of February 2, 1976, unanimously adopted a resolution which recommended that consideration of the repealer with respect to the western portion of the Monument be postponed pending the results of a mineral survey scheduled to be completed in 1978 to be conducted by the U. S. Bureau of Mines and the U. S. Geological Survey; and

WHEREAS the portion of the Monument subject to the recommendation of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission is isolated, remote, and not actively being used for public purposes; and

WHEREAS the exclusion of the western watershed from the repealer is supported by all members of the Alaska Congressional delegation; and

WHEREAS, if this area were actually mined, jobs would be created in an area characterized by chronically high unemployment; and

WHEREAS such use of those sections of the Monument would have little or no adverse permanent effect on the splendor and spectacular beauty of this magnificent area;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Senate respectfully requests that the United States House of Representatives give urgent and immediate consideration to excluding from the repealer of the Act of June 22, 1936 now included in S. 2371 that portion of Glacier Bay National Monument described as the area between the following described line on the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west, comprising approximately 531,000 acres: the area bounded on the east by a line extending north-northwesterly from the west shoreline of Taylor Bay, along the easterly limits of the rock outcrops and nunataks on the west side of Brady Glacier, to the large rock outcrop (elevation 4,148) at the divide between Brady Glacier and Reid Glacier; thence westerly to Mount Bertha; thence west northwesterly to Mount Orville; thence northwesterly and northerly along the divide of the Fairweather Range to Mount Wilbur, Lituya Mountain, Mount Salisbury, and Mount Quincy Adams.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States; the Honorable Thomas S. Kleppe, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable James A. Haley, Chairman, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.