

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1977

Source

Legislative  
Resolve No.

SJR 7 am H

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Opposing H.R. 39, the "Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act."

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

WHEREAS the development of a wise national interest resource policy requires that public land be utilized on an enlightened multiple-use basis, accommodating all reasonable uses for which the land is suited; and

WHEREAS H.R. 39, designed to implement sec. 17(d)(2) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, unreasonably shifts the emphasis from multiple-use management of land in the general interest to exclusive resource management in the interests of a few; and

WHEREAS the thrust of H.R. 39 is illustrated by the creation of 56.0 million acres of national parks, monuments, and preserves, as well as adding 8.1 million acres to those already in existence, thereby precluding the use of that land for mineral development, hunting (except in limited zones yet to be designated), and overall multiple-use management; and

WHEREAS the overall designation of portions of the national interest areas in the bill as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System creates enclaves of land which will involve serious access problems, be entirely restrictive to any sort of conventional development, and ultimately against the best public interest of most Alaskans; and

WHEREAS provisions relating to Native subsistence rights are uncertain and imprecise, leaving most substantive questions to be answered by regulations to be adopted in the future; and

WHEREAS, subject to valid existing rights, all the land designated as national interest land in H.R. 39 is withdrawn

from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from mineral leasing, thereby placing an untenable burden on the entire nation in this time of energy and raw materials shortage; and

WHEREAS sec. 704(b) of H.R. 39 arbitrarily revokes land selections by the state in the national interest land areas, granting the state equal acreage, but relegating it to the undesirable position of choosing lands of unspecified character and quality elsewhere; and

WHEREAS only 1.6 million acres are authorized to be designated as National Forest land, the only land category of those to be considered which approaches multiple-use management and considers diverse interests; and

WHEREAS Title V of H.R. 39 directs that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service exert primary interim management control of National Petroleum Reserve 4, representing an inappropriate shift of control considering the resource involved; and

WHEREAS a cooperative management program administered by a federal and state appointed commission would create a climate for determining the best use of land in Alaska; and

WHEREAS recognizing that there is a valid national public interest in public land in Alaska, including state land, as well as a valid interest on the part of the people of Alaska in federal land in Alaska, such a cooperative management program would allow land to be jointly administered until such time as its best value can be determined;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it opposes H. R. 39, the "Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act", as premature and not in the best interest of the citizens of the state and the nation; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports a strong common management program of administering public land and developing a selection policy.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter, President of the United States; the Honorable Cecil D. Andrus, Secretary of the Department of the Interior; the Honorable Robert S. Bergland, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture; the Honorable James O. Eastland, President Pro Tempore of the U. S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives; 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.