

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative
Resolve No.

89



Relating to the forthcoming action by the U. S. Congress regarding (d)(2) land withdrawals.

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

WHEREAS the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, Section 17(d)(2), specified that the Secretary of the Interior may withdraw up to 80 million acres of Alaska federal land for possible addition to the national park, forest, wildlife refuge, and wild and scenic river systems; and

WHEREAS the U. S. Congress is addressing this issue during the current session; and

WHEREAS there are unique areas in Alaska that require the preservation of certain scenic or cultural values in national parks and samples of wet land and critical habitat in wildlife refuges; and

WHEREAS the United States is increasingly dependent on foreign energy and mineral reserves, and Alaska land has the potential for satisfying the United States' need for scarce or shortage materials; and

WHEREAS Alaska's land also has major potential for production of agricultural and forest products, and abundant natural areas for public recreation; and

WHEREAS an inventory of the natural resources available from private, state and federal lands has not been completed in quantitative terms and the role of these lands in Alaska's future cannot be accurately predicted; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska has not completed selection of its land grants authorized by the Alaska Statehood Act as passed by Congress; and

WHEREAS additional resource inventories and land use planning by state and federal agencies will be helpful in utilizing the remaining entitlement to make wise selections before the 1984 deadline for statehood selections; and

WHEREAS there are existing authorities under which public land can be managed which will provide for inventory of resource values, classification of land for state selection and for consideration of all resource use opportunities under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield; and

WHEREAS these processes provide for the protection of unique natural values which do not exist elsewhere on the public land, including the identification of wilderness;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that, with the exception of certain scenic areas and areas of critical importance to the habitat and well-being of Alaska's wildlife, the remainder of the land set aside by Congress under the (d)(2) provision be managed under a flexible system which provides for state participation in land-use decisions; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that all members of the U. S. House and Senate Interior Committees are urged to visit Alaska before determining what disposition should be given to land in our state; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature formally opposes any federal legislation that will designate vast Alaskan acreage in single-purpose-use systems and that Congressional withdrawals and designations of management as national forests, wildlife refuges or national parks should not preclude the opportunity to further evaluate these areas to satisfy national needs or the opportunity for state selections; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that no additional public land should be designated under the provisions of sec. 17(d)(2) or included in management systems which preclude consideration of all values; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that public land should be inventoried and, through a land use planning process coordinated with the State of Alaska, determinations should be made to satisfy state selection rights in a manner that will provide land which has a high potential for use; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that legislation should be enacted by the Congress of the United States authorizing administration of the public land in Alaska under the principles expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (P.L. 94-579).

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter, President of the United States; the Honorable Henry Jackson, Chairman, Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, and all members of that committee; Representative Morris Udall, Chairman, House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, and all members of that committee; 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.