

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

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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 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, Section 17(d)(2), specified that the Secretary of the Interior may withdraw up to, but not to exceed, 80 million acres of unreserved public land in the State of Alaska 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 a careful inventory of the mineral potential of the land that may be included in a management category, which would foreclose mineral exploration and development, should be undertaken and completed before its designation into a management category; and

WHEREAS access for transportation, recreation, and utilities should be guaranteed in and to all preservation system designations in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, before there is a blanket designation of large areas of Alaska as wilderness, the traditional procedures of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and a careful environmental and economic impact study should be made on each wilderness proposal; and

WHEREAS the 22.5 million acres of commercial forest land in the Interior of Alaska should be considered for designation as national forest, thereby providing federal multiple-use areas within the four systems in the Interior of Alaska; and

WHEREAS large blocks of land with identifiable agricultural potential should be included in management systems which would allow for future agricultural development; and

WHEREAS any valid selections made by the state or Natives under the Statehood Act or the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act should be considered before designation of that area under Section 17(d)(2); and

WHEREAS state management of resident game on federally owned land in Alaska should be guaranteed, as the state is in a better position to manage this game and such management was provided for under the Statehood Act; and

WHEREAS the state should be guaranteed the right to rehabilitate, maintain and enhance its fishery resource through fish hatchery and rehabilitation programs on all land and water in the state considered appropriate for such purposes by the state; and

WHEREAS cooperative federal-state procedures or institutions should be established, in accordance with the principles embodied in Section 307(c)(1) of P.L. 92-583, AS 46.40, AS 35.10.020 and AS 35.30, to make future recommendations or designations on policy, planning, and management of Alaska's federal and state land; and

WHEREAS, while it is recognized that there is an existing need for certain land in the State of Alaska to be classified in traditional preservation system categories, the areas under consideration are too large; and

WHEREAS municipalities in the state support the multiple-use concept, which provides a professionally thorough and unbiased analysis of land-use potential and compatibility of uses, giving appropriate weight to economic, social and environmental factors; and

WHEREAS municipalities in the state oppose any legislation that would create instant land-use classifications severely restricting land and resources without consideration for other land-use potential;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature formally opposes the provisions of H.R. 39 as originally submitted, the recommended changes proposed by Secretary Andrus, and the committee substitute proposed by Congressman Seiberling, which will designate vast Alaska acreage in single-purpose use systems, precluding the opportunity to further evaluate these areas to satisfy national needs or the opportunity for state selections; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the passage of this bill without (1) a careful mineral inventory and guaranteed access provisions; (2) traditional environmental and economic impact studies; (3) provisions for future agricultural development; (4) creation of new national forests in the Interior of Alaska; (5) completion of the selection process of the state and Natives; (6) state game management as guaranteed under the Statehood Act; (7) a guarantee of the state's right to rehabilitate, maintain and enhance its fisheries resource through fish hatchery and rehabilitation programs on all land and water in the state con-

sidered appropriate for such purposes by the state; and (8) cooperative federal-state planning and development, would be against the best interests of the citizens of the state and nation alike; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to adopt a version of the Alaska National Interest Lands Act which will incorporate the desires and needs of Alaskan citizens, as expressed in this resolution.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter, President of the United States; the Honorable Henry M. Jackson, Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and all members of that committee; Representative Morris K. 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.