

STATE OF ALASKA
SENATE

1978

Source

SR 10

Senate

Resolve No.

1



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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

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 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, must be undertaken and completed; and

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

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

WHEREAS state management of resident game on federally owned land in Alaska must 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 cooperative federal-state procedures or institutions should be established 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 Senate 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 Sieberling, 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) completion of the selection process by the state and Natives; (5) state game management as guaranteed under the Statehood Act; and (6) 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 Senate 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.