

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1990

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

CSSJR 79(Res)

113



Supporting the designation of the existing Bering Land Bridge National Preserve as part of a Joint Alaska-Siberia International Park.

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

WHEREAS on January 9, 1990, the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union completed a joint feasibility study proposing an international park along the Bering Strait; and

WHEREAS international park designation would not result in any new national park land in the state, but would include the existing Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and land on the Chukotskiy Peninsula in Siberia; and

WHEREAS international park designation, with United States park headquarters at Nome, and the resulting increase in communication and travel between the two nations would support the state's interest in friendly exchange and in developing tourism, air and ferry travel, and trade with the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS the people of the Bering Strait region have an ancient heritage of connection through trade, language, family ties, common experience, and other aspects of their culture; and

WHEREAS the continents were once connected by land at the Bering Strait, and the proximity and common natural and cultural resources of Northwest Alaska and Siberia offer a special opportunity to cooperate in scientific research and in protection of a shared heritage; and

WHEREAS the designation of an international park would allow for increased cooperation and coordination among park managers and researchers, and would encourage greater international visitation without affecting the authorities of each nation to manage its own park land;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the international park proposal and encourages continuing professional and technical exchanges between the two nations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the discussion of the Joint Alaska-Siberia International Park by President Bush and President Gorbachev at the June, 1990, Summit.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United States; to the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr., Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; to James M. Ridenour, Director of the National Park Service; to the Mayor of the City of Savoonga; to the Mayor of the City of Gambell; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.