

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1991

Source

HCS CSSJR 16(L&C)

Legislative
Resolve No.

44



Relating to the international trade in furs.

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

WHEREAS a substantial number of the products of the United States fur trapping industry have historically been exported to the member states of the European Community; and

WHEREAS the European Commission, the executive body of the European Community, has proposed to ban the importation of furs originating in countries that have not prohibited the use of leg-hold traps; and

WHEREAS the European Parliament, the advisory body of the European Community, has overwhelmingly supported this proposal; and

WHEREAS the European Commission has forwarded the proposal to the Council of Ministers, the legislation-enacting body of the European Community; and

WHEREAS 7 of the 12 countries that comprise the European Community do not prohibit the use of leg-hold traps; and

WHEREAS several countries with which Alaska competes in the international fur market provide indirect subsidies to their producers of farm-raised fur, thereby creating an unfair price advantage for the subsidized producers and hampering the effective operation of free trade; and

WHEREAS the United States does not prohibit the use of leg-hold traps; and
WHEREAS trapping is an important tool in the management of wildlife; and
WHEREAS trapping is a traditional harvest method of Alaska Native cultural groups and many other Alaskans, providing food and clothing for personal use as well as for trade or barter for other goods; and

WHEREAS trapping is an established and important economic activity for many residents of Alaska; and

WHEREAS the enactment of the European Community's proposed ban would have a significant negative effect on the fur trapping industry in Alaska;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges the Office of the United States Trade Representative to accord the highest priority to representing the United States fur trapping industry by promoting fair and free trade in the industry at all the international trade forums, including both bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher, Sr., Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable Carla A. Hills, U.S. Trade Representative; 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.