

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1995

Source
CSSJR 6(RES)

Legislative
Resolve No.
7



Relating to federally held property in those states, including Alaska, admitted to the Union since 1802.

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

WHEREAS the founding fathers of this nation recognized that land is power and that a centralized federal government with a substantial land base would eventually overwhelm the states and pose a threat to the freedom of the individual; and

WHEREAS the original 13 colonies and the next five states admitted to the Union were granted fee title to all land within their borders; and

WHEREAS all but two states admitted to the Union since 1802 were denied the same rights of land ownership granted the states admitted earlier; and

WHEREAS art. I, sec. 8, of the Constitution of the United States of America makes no provision for land ownership by the federal government, other than by purchase from the states of land "...for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock-yards, and other needful buildings"; and

WHEREAS acting contrary to the provisions of art. I, sec. 8, of the Constitution of the United States, the federal government withheld property from the states admitted since 1802, making them land poor and unable to determine their own land use and development policies;

and

WHEREAS this action has made those states admitted since 1802 unequal to other states and subject to unwarranted federal control; and

WHEREAS restoration of property to which they are historically and constitutionally entitled would empower the land poor states to determine their own land use policies;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the 104th Congress of the United States to right the wrong and to transfer to the states, by fee title, any federally controlled property currently held within the states admitted to the Union since 1802; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress is urged to then purchase from the newly empowered States land needed to meet the provision of art. I, sec. 8, United States Constitution.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert Dole, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to members of the delegations in Congress of those States admitted to the Union since 1802; 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.