

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1996

Source
CSHJR 58(RES)

Legislative
Resolve No.
60



Relating to reauthorization and reform of the Endangered Species Act.

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

WHEREAS the Endangered Species Act (Act) is presently being considered for reauthorization by the Congress; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska supports the basic concept embodied in the Act to prevent the extinction of species; and

WHEREAS effective protection for most endangered species is dependent upon cooperation among federal agencies, state fish and wildlife agencies, local governments, and private landowners; and

WHEREAS improper implementation of the Act has often created adversarial relationships among federal agencies, state fish and wildlife agencies, local governments, and private landowners; and

WHEREAS the detrimental effects of the Act on private landowners and regional economies is a disincentive for landowners to cooperate in the implementation of the Act and results in less protection for potentially endangered species on private land; and

WHEREAS the federal agencies charged with administering the Act have often misused their authority under the Act; and

WHEREAS an inadequate scientific basis exists for many decisions made by federal agencies regarding the listing of species and recovery plans for endangered species; and

WHEREAS administrative reforms promised by the Clinton administration have either not been implemented or been wholly inadequate; and

WHEREAS new policies adopted by the federal agencies charged with implementing the Act have not significantly improved the implementation of the Act;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Congress to proceed with reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act, using HR 2275 as the basis for the reauthorization legislation; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully recommends that the reauthorized Endangered Species Act (Act) contain the following features in order to assure partnerships with the states, protection of private property rights, and appropriate conservation of endangered species:

- (1) an effective partnership with the states in the conservation of endangered species;
- (2) greater flexibility for states in implementing the Act, including opportunity for consultation under sec. 7 of the Act;
- (3) an exemption from the Federal Advisory Committee Act for cooperative ventures with the states;
- (4) requirements for stricter scientific and quantitative criteria for listing species under the Act;
- (5) elimination of the concept of "distinct population segment" from the definition of "species";
- (6) establishment of taxonomic standards for listing subspecies under the Act;
- (7) scientific peer review procedures for listing and "de-listing" of species under the Act;
- (8) elimination of the biological diversity reserve system or exemption of Alaska from the system;
- (9) establishment of species conservation and recovery standards that take into consideration the ability of a species to recover, the costs of implementation, and the public interest; and

(10) a requirement that recovery plans impose equitable burdens on user groups.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent 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.