

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1998

Legislative
Resolve No.

65

Source

HJR 53 am S



Relating to support for federal legislation providing for the continuation of the University of Alaska by the conveyance of federal land to the university.

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

WHEREAS the University of Alaska is the oldest postsecondary school in the state and plays a vital role in educating Alaskans as well as students from around the world; and

WHEREAS the University of Alaska began as Alaska Agricultural and Mining College, a land grant college; and

WHEREAS the land grant system is one of the oldest and most respected forms of financing education in the United States; and

WHEREAS the land grant system provides grants of land to colleges and universities for facility location and, more importantly, provides a method for sustaining revenues to those colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS the University of Alaska received the smallest amount of land of any state that has a land grant college except Delaware; to date, the university has received only about 111,000 acres, less than one-third the acreage the university was originally promised; and

WHEREAS S. 660, sponsored by Senator Frank Murkowski, would grant to the University of Alaska 250,000 acres of federal land if the university agrees to relinquish to the

federal government its extremely valuable inholdings in Denali National Park and Preserve and in other national parks, preserves, and refuges; and

WHEREAS S. 660 would grant to the University of Alaska an additional 250,000 acres of federal land if the state agrees to grant to the university 250,000 acres of state land; and

WHEREAS S. 660 will provide a stable revenue stream to the University of Alaska while protecting the state's unique parks, preserves, and refuges; and

WHEREAS reasonable amendments can be made to S. 660 relating to the transfer of federal lands in the Tongass National Forest and the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges Senator Murkowski to continue working with representatives of the State of Alaska and the University of Alaska to consider amendments that will address the land grant deficiency of the University of Alaska and be in the best interest of the state; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to pass and the President to sign S. 660 as expeditiously as possible.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Dick Armey, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; 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.