

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

2002

Source  
HLR 48

Legislative  
Resolve No.  
61



Relating to federal land withdrawals.

---

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

**WHEREAS** vast tracts of lands managed by federal agencies of the United States have been withdrawn from public entry; and

**WHEREAS**, in many instances, the original purpose for the withdrawal has been accomplished or lapsed; and

**WHEREAS**, in the State of Alaska, many of these withdrawn lands have been selected by the state under the Alaska Statehood Act for transfer to become state-owned lands; and

**WHEREAS** the withdrawn lands in the state have been selected because of their value for recreation, mineral resources, and access corridors; and

**WHEREAS** the withdrawn lands cannot be transferred to the State of Alaska until and unless the federal withdrawals are removed; and

**WHEREAS** the land managing agencies of the United States are neither empowered nor motivated to terminate these so-called "temporary" withdrawals; and

**WHEREAS** the continuation of the withdrawn lands in a withdrawn status is not in the public interest;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the legislature of the State of Alaska hereby requests the Alaska Congressional delegation, as well as the Congressional delegations of the several states, to introduce and adopt legislation that would amend the laws of the United States to require that all land managing agencies identify (1) all withdrawn lands under their jurisdiction, (2) the statutory purpose for which the land withdrawal was made, (3) the status of the land withdrawal, and (4) the documents creating each land withdrawal, and file with the Congress a plan to terminate those withdrawals for which the statutory purpose has been accomplished or lapsed within one year from the passage of this legislation; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Congress should adopt, and the President of the United States should sign into law, any amendment to the public land laws that is necessary to terminate all land withdrawals not specifically incorporated into the statutory establishment of parks, refuges, wilderness areas, or other federal set-asides within the later of 10 years after the withdrawal or 10 years after the passage of the Act of Congress, and that the terminations should be self-actuating without further statutory or administrative action; notwithstanding the foregoing, the Act of Congress should provide the affected land-managing agency with authority to extend a specific withdrawal by providing the Congress with a detailed report setting out the reasons for an extension, the specific acreage involved, and a date certain upon which the withdrawal will terminate, which representation shall be binding on the agency.

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas Daschle, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker 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.