

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/11/15

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE MILLETT

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to pass the Improved National Monument**
2 **Designation Process Act.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the President of the United States may "declare by public proclamation
5 historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or
6 scientific interest" as national monuments under the Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431 -
7 433), and the United States Congress may establish national monuments through legislation;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS** the Antiquities Act requires the President of the United States to reserve
10 "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be
11 protected" within the boundaries of the national monument; and

12 **WHEREAS** there are already 142 national monuments ranging in size from less than
13 an acre to nearly 140,000 square miles spread out across the land and water of the United
14 States; and

15 **WHEREAS** President Barack Obama has unilaterally expanded the scope and
16 boundaries of national monuments; and

1 **WHEREAS** President Obama has established 10 new national monuments since
2 beginning his second term of office; and

3 **WHEREAS** President Obama was responsible for the largest expansion of an existing
4 national monument when he added, by proclamation, approximately 400,000 square miles to
5 the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument in 2014; and

6 **WHEREAS** the establishment or expansion of national monuments without
7 consideration of the possible detrimental effects on natural resource development, commercial
8 fishing, tourism, and other industries may create considerable hardship on regional, state, and
9 local economies; and

10 **WHEREAS** the President's exercise of power under the Antiquities Act is limited in
11 Alaska by the "no more" clauses of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the federal
13 government promised the state and people of Alaska that it would maintain in the lands it
14 manages a balance between environmental protection and the economic and social needs of
15 Alaskans and that no more land in the state would be set aside; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in February 2015, United States Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan
17 Sullivan jointly introduced S. 437, the Improved National Monument Designation Process
18 Act, establishing new requirements and limitations on the authority of the President of the
19 United States to establish or expand national monuments under the Antiquities Act; and

20 **WHEREAS**, under the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act, the
21 President of the United States may not establish a national monument unless it is approved by
22 the United States Congress and by each affected state or territory within 100 miles of the
23 proposed national monument; and

24 **WHEREAS** the purposes of the "no more" clauses of the Alaska National Interest
25 Lands Conservation Act would be strengthened by the limitations placed on the authority of
26 the President by the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act;

27 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the direct involvement
28 of the United States Congress and the states in the establishment and expansion of national
29 monuments; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
31 Congress to pass S. 437, the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act, so that

1 the use of Alaska's renewable and nonrenewable resources is protected and environmentally
2 responsible resource extraction and development activities may take place.

3 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
4 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
5 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of
6 Representatives; the Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of
7 Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of
8 Representatives; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
9 Honorable Harry Reid, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski,
10 Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Dan
11 Sullivan, U.S. Senator, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the
12 Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 114th United States Congress.