

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR THERRIAULT

Introduced:

Referred:

A RESOLUTION

1 **Encouraging all states to oppose the decision of the United States Fish and Wildlife**
2 **Service to list the polar bear as a threatened species.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:**

4 **WHEREAS** the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is considering listing the
5 polar bear as a threatened species; and

6 **WHEREAS**, contrary to studies being cited, data indicate that polar bear populations
7 have approximately tripled in the last three decades and continue to be managed well above
8 sustained yield levels under international guidelines; and

9 **WHEREAS**, contrary to well-documented and scientifically proven data, other studies
10 cited and considered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service were used selectively, and
11 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service fails to recognize the uncertainty of summer
12 Arctic ice modeling and that polar bear populations are healthy; and

13 **WHEREAS** listing polar bears as threatened would be detrimental to customary and
14 traditional subsistence uses by Alaska Natives as referenced in the Alaska Native Claims
15 Settlement Act and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and

16 **WHEREAS** listing polar bears as threatened would violate both the spirit and content

1 of current international treaties with other countries; and

2 **WHEREAS** listing polar bears as threatened would violate the intent of Alaska's
3 Statehood Compact as it pertains to management and development of resources critical to our
4 economic well-being; and

5 **WHEREAS** listing polar bears as threatened will be used as a political and legal tool
6 by environmental extremists to block exploration and development of strategic resources vital
7 to the state and the nation as a whole; and

8 **WHEREAS** listing polar bears as threatened will affect every state because legal and
9 political action will be taken to insist that any emissions or activity that might possibly lead to
10 a decline in polar bear populations be subject to new reviews by the United States Fish and
11 Wildlife Service or other government agencies;

12 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate opposes the decision of the United States Fish
13 and Wildlife Service to list the polar bear as a threatened species under the Endangered
14 Species Act of 1973; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Senate strongly encourages all other states to
16 oppose the decision of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to list the polar bear as a
17 threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

18 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the governors of each of the other 49 states;
19 the presiding officers of the legislatures of each of the other 49 states; and the Honorable Ted
20 Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
21 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.