

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2010

Source
SCS HJR 26(RES)

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
66



Urging the United States Congress to adequately fund land surveys in Alaska in order to issue patents to the State of Alaska and Alaska Native corporations.

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

WHEREAS, at Statehood, Alaska was granted a land entitlement from the federal government in excess of 103,000,000 acres; and

WHEREAS Alaska Natives, through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, were granted a land entitlement from the federal government of more than 44,000,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the United States Congress passed the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act with the intent of largely completing land entitlement conveyance under the Alaska Statehood and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Acts by 2009, the 50th anniversary of Statehood; and

WHEREAS the United States Bureau of Land Management has aggressively and diligently worked to implement the Act; and

WHEREAS, despite the efforts of the Bureau of Land Management, considerable land conveyance work remains to be accomplished, particularly in the area of land survey; and

WHEREAS land surveys are necessary to issue patents to the state and Alaska Native corporations and are essential to determining with certainty what lands are owned by the state and Native corporations; and

WHEREAS that certainty is needed for long-term land use and development; and

WHEREAS the United States Congress provided interim title by granting tentative approval to the state and interim conveyance to Native corporations, but with the understanding that the land would eventually be surveyed and patent issued; and

WHEREAS, as of January 31, 2010, more than 57,000,000 acres of land still await patent, including more than 42,000,000 acres of land that has been tentatively approved to the state, and 15,000,000 acres subject to interim conveyance to Alaska Native corporations, and more than 7,000,000 additional acres await conveyance;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to appropriate sufficient funds to the United States Bureau of Land Management to ensure the timely completion of land surveys in Alaska so that land promised to Alaska Natives and the State of Alaska can be patented.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ken Salazar, United States Secretary of the Interior; Ron Wenker, Acting Director, United States Bureau of Land Management; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 111th United States Congress.