

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY SENATORS FRENCH, McGuire, Menard, Egan, Davis, Thomas, Stedman, Huggins, Wagoner, Olson, Wielechowski, Dyson, Meyer, Stevens**

**REPRESENTATIVES Kawasaki, Holmes**

**Introduced: 4/1/11**

**Referred: State Affairs**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Designating August 18, 2011, as Walter J. Hickel Day of the Arctic.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** Walter J. Hickel worked in service to the state and the peoples of the  
4 Arctic in the interest of the public good; and

5 **WHEREAS** he served as the Governor of Alaska twice, from 1966 - 1969 and 1990 -  
6 1994, and as United States Secretary of the Interior under President Nixon from 1969 - 1970;  
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, during the fight for Statehood, he played a major role in winning the  
9 battle for a resource base for the state that included 103,000,000 acres of land; and

10 **WHEREAS**, as the state's second governor, he successfully pushed to open Prudhoe  
11 Bay to oil development; and

12 **WHEREAS**, as United States Secretary of the Interior, Hickel oversaw the permitting  
13 process for the Trans Alaska Pipeline and helped gain the votes in the United States Congress  
14 to authorize its construction, played a key role in the settlement of Alaska Native land claims,  
15 advocated nationally for the 200-mile limit to protect Alaska's fisheries, and placed all eight  
16 species of great whales on the endangered species list; and

1           **WHEREAS**, in his second term as governor, he was the architect of a \$1,000,000,000  
2 universal legal settlement of the damages caused by the Exxon Valdez disaster, assisted in  
3 establishing the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward, pushed for community development  
4 quotas, and took the problem of wasteful bycatch fishing practices to the United Nations  
5 Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Earth Summit, in 1992 in  
6 Rio de Janiero, where he was the only United States governor asked to speak; and

7           **WHEREAS**, in his later years, Hickel co-founded Commonwealth North with  
8 Governor William A. Egan, co-founded the Northern Forum, and founded the Institute of the  
9 North, and those organizations continue to promote Alaska public policy issues, highlight the  
10 state's role as an Arctic state, and connect the state to others on the national and international  
11 stages; and

12           **WHEREAS**, in 1973, Readers Digest published his article, "The Day of the Arctic has  
13 Come," and he spent the rest of his life advocating for "the reality, the richness, and the  
14 responsibility of the North"; and

15           **WHEREAS**, in 1988, he participated in the first Friendship Flight between Alaska  
16 and the Russian Far East; and

17           **WHEREAS** he was the first non-Russian appointed to the board of the Non-  
18 commercial Partnership of the Coordination of the Northern Sea Route Usages, and he was  
19 the first non-Russian to speak to Vladimir Putin's People's Chamber, which was established to  
20 address some of Russia's most challenging problems; and

21           **WHEREAS**, throughout his life, he advocated for local control and local  
22 responsibility for the land and natural resources of the state; and

23           **WHEREAS** his concept of Alaska as an Owner State has shaped the thinking of, and  
24 inspired, peoples around the world who live on rich and environmentally sensitive land; and

25           **WHEREAS** he died May 7, 2010, at 90 years of age and, at his request, was buried  
26 standing up so he could, if necessary, "come out fighting" for Alaska, as he had always done;  
27 and

28           **WHEREAS** August 18 is the day of his birth;

29           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes and honors Walter J.  
30 Hickel by designating August 18, 2011, as Walter J. Hickel Day of the Arctic, to recognize  
31 his service to his country, to Alaska, to the peoples of the North, and to the world.