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## **Sponsor Statement**

### *House Joint Resolution 10 - Urging the United States Congress to pass the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act.*

It is far past time for Congress to amend the Antiquities Act of 1906. The circumstances under which it was adopted have long since ended, making use of the Act for its original purpose unnecessary.

When the Act was initially passed, much of the U.S. was thinly-populated wildlands. It was nearly impossible to police those vast expanses to prevent the theft from ancient Indian archeological sites or significant fossil deposits. The Act was adopted to protect these treasures by authorizing the president to designate the smallest area necessary surrounding them as national monuments.

Now the Act is being used to declare vast areas as monuments, precluding all environmental management, and eliminating traditional uses such as hunting, snowmobiling and off-road vehicles. All this is done without public input, circumventing Congress and the states and communities where the monument may be located, disenfranchising the people of the area.

House Joint Resolution 10 expresses the Alaska Legislatures support for legislation sponsored by United States Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, Senate Bill 33, "Improved National Monument Designation Process Act," which would amend the Antiquities Act requiring the President must obtain congressional approval, certify compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and receive notice that the state legislature has enacted legislation approving its designation of any new monument.

Congress has amended the Antiquities Act on two previous occasions; first in 1950 in reaction to the declaration of the Jackson Hole Monument, requiring Congressional approval for all future monuments in Wyoming; and second with the passage of ANILCA in 1980, requiring congressional approval for monuments in Alaska greater than 5,000 acres in size.

HJR 10 supports the direct involvement of the United State Congress and the states in the establishment and expansion of national monuments.

I encourage support for the passage of HJR 10.

If you have additional questions please contact Darrell Breese in my office at 465-4859.