



**CITY OF WASILLA**

290 E. HERNING AVE.

WASILLA, ALASKA 99654-7091

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Requested by: Administration

Prepared by: Administration

**RESOLUTION NO. WR95-18**

A RESOLUTION OF THE WASILLA CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ACCOMMODATE ALASKA'S WETLANDS CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT REAUTHORIZATION BY INCREASING THE STATUTORY FLEXIBILITY ON WETLANDS USE IN ALASKA AND TO RECOGNIZE ALASKA'S UNIQUE AND OUTSTANDING HISTORY OF WETLANDS CONSERVATION.

WHEREAS, in 1972 the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251-1387) allowed a broad expansion of federal jurisdiction over wetlands by modifying the definition of navigable waters to include all waters of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1975 the United States Army Corps of Engineers expanded wetlands regulations to include restricted discharge of dredged and fill material into wetlands; and

WHEREAS, wetlands regulations have been expanded further to include isolated wetlands and those not adjacent to navigable waters; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of the regulations governing wetlands by federal agencies exceeds what the Congress intended when it enacted the federal Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, Alaska contains more wetlands than all other states combined; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, approximately 170,200,000 acres of wetlands existed in Alaska in the 1780's and approximately 170,000,000 acres exist today, representing a loss rate of less than 1/10th of one percent in a decade through human and natural processes; and

WHEREAS, approximately 98% of all Alaska communities, including 200 of 209 remote villages in Alaska are located in or adjacent to wetlands; and

WHEREAS, with negligible benefit to the environment in Alaska, the expansion of wetlands regulations has placed an increasing and unnecessary burden on private landowners, Native organizations and local and state governments by inhibiting reasonable community growth and environmentally benign, sensitive resource development; and

WHEREAS, 88% of Alaska's wetlands are publicly owned, while only 26% of wetlands in the contiguous 48 states are in public ownership; and

WHEREAS, more than 60,000,000 acres of Alaska's wetlands are known to be conserved in some form of land designation, including federally designated wilderness land, federal park and refuge land and state park and refuge land that restrict utilization or degradation of wetlands.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wasilla City Council respectfully requests the United States Congress to exclude Alaska from a "no net loss" policy associated with the federal Clean Water Act and to amend the federal Clean Water Act to modify the wetlands regulatory program (1) to provide flexibility in Alaska wetlands permitting commensurate with the large amount of wetlands set aside in Alaska and the low historic rate of wetlands loss in Alaska and (2) to relax the restrictions on the use of wetlands in Alaska.

I certify that a resolution in substantially the above form was passed by a majority of those voting at a duly called and conducted meeting of the governing body of the City of Wasilla this 8th day of May, 1995.

  
John C. Stein, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Marjorie D. Harris, CMC  
City Clerk

(Seal)