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S. RES. 285

Expressing the Sense of the Senate condemning the failure of the International Whaling Commission to recognize the needs of Alaskan Eskimos.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 13, 2002

Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself and Mr. STEVENS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the Sense of the Senate condemning the failure of the International Whaling Commission to recognize the needs of Alaskan Eskimos.

Whereas the International Whaling Commission was founded in 1946 under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, with the purpose of providing for the proper conservation of whale stocks in order to make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry;

Whereas the Commission has explicitly recognized aboriginal subsistence whaling as separate from commercial whaling and has in the past provided quotas for aboriginal subsistence whaling participants from Denmark, the Russian Federation, St. Vincent and The Grenadines, and the United States;

Whereas the Commission has failed to renew the aboriginal subsistence whaling which previously was designated for Alaska Eskimo whalers;

Whereas the Commission's failure to reauthorize quotas for aboriginal subsistence whaling was orchestrated by nations disgruntled by the United States position in opposition to the resumption of commercial whaling and determined to retaliate against legitimate United States interests in aboriginal subsistence whaling;

Whereas aboriginal subsistence whaling has been a mainstay of the culture and livelihood of the Inuit people of Alaska for thousands of years;

Whereas whaling by the Inupiat people of northern Alaska brings significant benefits to every member of the successful villages, where whale meat is shared among all residents;

Whereas the Inupiat people of Alaska have consistently followed responsible management practices in carrying out their whaling activities; and

Whereas the Inupiat people of Alaska have embraced the goal of whale conservation and participated heavily in whale research and monitoring that demonstrates that their subsistence whaling has no adverse effect on the population of bowhead whales, their preferred species: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) the failure of the Commission to renew ab-
 3 original whaling quotas is inconsistent with the un-
 4 derstandings on which the Commission is based, and

1 jeopardizes the continued existence of the Commis-
2 sion as a meaningful international body; and

3 (2) regardless of any current or subsequent ac-
4 tion of the Commission, the United States govern-
5 ment should take all steps necessary to ensure the
6 continuance of scientifically sound aboriginal subsist-
7 ence whaling by the Inupiat people of Alaska.

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