

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 226

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the policy of the United States at the 50th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 8, 1998

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. KERRY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. GORTON, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. CHAFEE, and Mr. TORRICELLI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the policy of the United States at the 50th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

Whereas whales have very low reproductive rates, making whale populations extremely vulnerable to pressure from commercial whaling;

Whereas whales migrate throughout the world's oceans and international cooperation is required to successfully conserve and protect whale stocks;

Whereas in 1946 the nations of the world adopted the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, which established the International Whaling Commission to provide for the proper conservation of the whale stocks;

Whereas the Commission adopted a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1982 in order to conserve and promote the recovery of the whale stocks;

Whereas the Commission has designated the Indian Ocean and the ocean waters around Antarctica as whale sanctuaries to further enhance the recovery of whale stocks;

Whereas many nations of the world have designated waters under their jurisdiction as whale sanctuaries where commercial whaling is prohibited, and additional regional whale sanctuaries have been proposed by nations that are members of the Commission;

Whereas 2 member nations of the Commission have taken reservations to the Commission's moratorium on commercial whaling and 1 has recently resumed commercial whaling operations in spite of the moratorium and the protests of other nations;

Whereas another member nation of the Commission has taken a reservation to the Commission's Southern Ocean Sanctuary and continues to conduct lethal scientific whaling in the waters of that sanctuary;

Whereas the Commission's Scientific Committee has repeatedly expressed serious concerns about the scientific need for such lethal whaling;

Whereas the lethal take of whales under reservations to the Commission's policies have been increasing annually;

Whereas there continue to be indications that whale meat is being traded on the international market despite a ban on such trade under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and that meat may be originating in one of the member nations of the Commission; and

Whereas 1998 is the International Year of the Ocean and the Commission plays a leading role in global efforts to improve the state of the world's oceans: Now, therefore, be it

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

2 (1) at the 50th Annual Meeting of the Inter-
3 national Whaling Commission in Oman the United
4 States should—

5 (A) remain firmly opposed to commercial
6 whaling;

7 (B) initiate and support efforts to ensure
8 that all activities conducted under reservations
9 to the Commission's moratorium or sanctuaries
10 are ceased;

11 (C) oppose the lethal taking of whales for
12 scientific purposes unless such lethal taking is
13 specifically authorized by the Scientific Commit-
14 tee of the Commission;

15 (D) seek the Commission's support for spe-
16 cific efforts by member nations to end illegal
17 trade in whale meat; and

18 (E) support the permanent protection of
19 whale populations through the establishment of
20 whale sanctuaries in which commercial whaling
21 is prohibited; and

1 (2) make full use of all appropriate diplomatic
2 mechanisms, relevant international laws and agree-
3 ments, and other appropriate mechanisms to imple-
4 ment the goals set forth in paragraph (1).

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