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## **Press Release - Muskie Proposal on Joint Committee on Environment Reintroduced**

Edmund S. Muskie

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# MUSKIE

Maine

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FOR RELEASE

IMMEDIATELY  
January 27, 1971

## MUSKIE PROPOSAL ON JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT REINTRODUCED

Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) has introduced in the Senate a joint resolution to establish a non-legislative Joint Committee on Environment.

The Muskie joint resolution, bearing the names of 28 co-sponsors, is identical to Senate Joint Resolution 207 adopted by the Senate last year, SJR 207 died in conference when the 91st Congress adjourned.

"I think it is fair to say that during the past three sessions of the Congress, the Senate has come to agree on two major purposes for establishing a Joint Committee on Environment," Senator Muskie said.

"First, the Senate recognizes that it needs to improve the congressional capacity for collecting relevant information on present and emerging environmental problems.

"Second, the Senate recognizes that it needs to create a well-staffed congressional institution which can conduct a continuing assessment of the relationship between human beings and their environment."

The Maine Democrat emphasized that it was not his intent to establish a joint committee which would infringe the substantive jurisdiction of any standing committee.

"What I am seeking is a source of information and analysis which the standing committees do not have time or authority to produce for themselves," he said.

Members of the proposed joint committee would be appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives acting upon the recommendations of the majority and minority leaders. There would be 11 Senators and 11 Congressmen.

Joint committee members would select a chairman and vice chairman at the beginning of each Congress. The chairmanship would alternate between the Senate and the House with each Congress.

Because Senator Muskie is in California, his resolution was introduced by the majority leader, Senator Mike Mansfield (D-Montana).