

Senator Robert Myers

Alaska State Legislature



Senate District Q

Session Address:

Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 7
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3719

Interim Address:

1292 Sadler Way, Ste. 340
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-3172
Phone: (907) 451-2157

SJR 11 ver. A - Sponsor Statement

JONES ACT WAIVER FOR LNG SHIPS

“Urging the United States Congress to enact a Jones Act waiver to facilitate transportation of domestic liquefied natural gas between ports in the state.

Alaska is a natural resource rich state with two main oil and natural gas producing fields in the Cook Inlet and the North Slope. However, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources has projected significant shortfalls in the Cook Inlet natural gas supply beginning in 2027. While the construction of a natural gas pipeline will connect the abundant supplies of natural gas from the North Slope to Alaskans, the economic costs of the pipeline has delayed construction for almost five decades. Current projections for the gas line construction indicate it will not be operational until 2031. This places Alaska in a predicament of possessing abundant natural gas resources while facing an energy crisis due to its inability to access the stranded natural gas. Two import terminal projects are already being planned to bridge that gap.

While the construction of the natural gas line is the preferred long-term solution to the energy crisis and to market Alaska’s natural gas for export, several possibilities have been discussed to sell our natural gas on the world market, including shipping gas directly off the North Slope. But if that option is used, it would place Alaska in the precarious position of selling our gas without being able to use it ourselves because of the restrictions in the Jones Act. The Jones Act requires vessels transporting cargo between U.S. ports to be built in the United States, be mostly crewed by American merchant sailors, and be at least 75 percent U.S. owned. Currently, there are no large-scale Jones Act-compliant LNG tankers in the world. This prevents the state from transporting LNG to Alaskan ports by sea.

Congress has previously granted waivers for the Jones Act due to the lack of qualified vessels and natural disasters. In 2010, Congress granted a waiver to allow foreign-flag vessels used in the anchoring of oil rigs in the Beaufort or the Chukchi Sea. In addition, the current Presidential Administration is favorable to the development of Alaska’s natural resources including LNG and its domestic imports.

The state of Alaska is facing an imminent and acute need to stabilize its LNG supply to ensure its domestic energy security and future economic prosperity. SJR 11 respectfully urges the United States Congress to recognize Alaska’s contributions to national energy security and to enact a Jones Act waiver that facilitates the urgent transportation of domestic LNG between Alaskan ports until Jones Act-compliant vessels are available. Fundamentally, SJR 11 seeks to allow Alaska to utilize its own domestic natural gas during this energy crisis.

Staff Contact: Theresa Woldstad (907) 465-3719