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Representative Jay Ramras District 10

Sponsor Statement for House Concurrent Resolution No. 4

Short Title: IN-STATE GAS PIPELINE

Contact: Margaret Dowling, 465-6841

Purpose and Intent HCR 4

The intent of House Concurrent Resolution No. 4 is to provide energy security for Alaskans by requesting that the Governor take all steps necessary to encourage development of a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to the Cook Inlet Region, including advocating for an increase in the amount of natural gas that may be exported from the state under the authority granted by the United States Department of Energy. Increasing the volume of gas that may be exported from Alaska under U.S. Department of Energy licenses will increase demand and provide certainty and economic viability for a natural gas bullet line from the North Slope to the Cook Inlet Region.

Under current licenses with the U.S. Department of Energy, ConocoPhillips Alaska Natural Gas Corporation and Marathon Oil Company may export from the Kenai liquefied natural gas export facility up to 99,000,000,000 British thermal units (about 98,100,000,000 cubic feet) of liquefied natural gas during the two-year period from April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2011. After that time the Kenai liquefied natural gas export facility may be forced to close if the authority to export liquefied natural gas is not extended and if no new gas is discovered in the Cook Inlet region to meet both export and local demand. Local demand alone in the Cook Inlet region is expected to grow from 200,000,000 cubic feet a day to approximately 700,000,000 cubic feet a day during the period of 2010 to 2025. By supporting an increase in export licenses, the Governor will take the lead in insuring that Cook Inlet natural gas demand is supplied and that a natural gas bullet line from the North Slope to Cook Inlet is an economically viable project.

Summary HCR 4:

- Requests that the Governor provide energy security for all Alaskans by taking action necessary to support the development of a natural gas pipeline that will deliver natural gas from the North Slope to Cook Inlet.

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- Requests that the Governor take appropriate action to advocate an increase in the volume of gas that may be exported under licenses issued by the U.S. Department of Energy to 60,000,000,000 cubic feet a year with that increase to be supplied by North Slope natural gas.

Benefits HCR 4:

- Secures an adequate supply of affordable natural gas for residential and industrial consumers from the North Slope to Cook Inlet.
- Enhances production and export of liquefied natural gas, thereby increasing jobs, and local and state revenue.
- Allows the Interior and other regions in the state to convert from fossil fuels to cheaper and cleaner burning natural gas, thereby increasing compliance with the fine particle air quality standard issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and enhancing Alaskan's health.