

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES SADDLER, Millett

Introduced: 4/1/13

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to national ocean policy.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** Executive Order 13547, signed by President Barack Obama on July 19,
4 2010, establishes a National Ocean Council and directs the council to develop a national
5 ocean policy; and

6 **WHEREAS** Executive Order 13547 circumvents federal congressional authority by
7 giving federal agencies broad authority to zone and regulate oceans, coasts, and the Great
8 Lakes; and

9 **WHEREAS** the national ocean policy calls for a coastal and marine spatial planning
10 process to zone and regulate activities in oceans, coasts, and other water bodies, including
11 water owned and managed by the state, and to "build upon and improve existing Federal,
12 State, tribal, local, and regional decision making planning processes"; and

13 **WHEREAS** the parameters of the coastal and marine spatial planning process are
14 undefined and could potentially apply to inland wetlands and waterways and affect activities
15 remote from marine and coastal areas of the state; and

16 **WHEREAS** zoning of commercial, recreational, and conservation activities in the

1 oceans and waterways of the state could significantly affect resource-based activities in the
2 state, including oil and gas exploration and development; renewable energy; commercial,
3 recreational, and subsistence fishing and hunting; travel and tourism; transportation and
4 shipping; boating and recreation; hard rock mining and sand and gravel use; timber harvest;
5 agriculture; and manufacturing; and

6 **WHEREAS** the need for coastal and marine spatial planning for the Alaska region is
7 not supported by scientific evidence nor is there demonstrated conflict among users of aquatic
8 and coastal resources in the state or proven scarcity of aquatic and coastal resources; and

9 **WHEREAS** the membership of the National Ocean Council consists solely of
10 representatives of federal agencies and organizations and fails to adequately recognize the
11 interests of states, local governments, Alaska Natives, and other stakeholders; and

12 **WHEREAS** the regional planning bodies created in the National Ocean Council will
13 not include representatives from industry or other affected stakeholder groups;

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the National Ocean
15 Council, in the development and implementation of a National Ocean Policy Final
16 Implementation Plan and the coastal and marine spatial planning process, to consider an
17 Alaska region exemption or to allow voluntary state participation; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the National Ocean Council fails to include an
19 Alaska region exemption or to allow voluntary state participation in the development and
20 implementation of a National Ocean Policy Final Implementation Plan and the coastal and
21 marine spatial planning process, the Alaska State Legislature opposes and declines to
22 recognize, participate in, or enforce the National Ocean Policy Final Implementation Plan and
23 the coastal and marine spatial planning process as it applies to the Alaska and Arctic regions.

24 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
25 the United States; the Honorable Rebecca Blank, acting United States Secretary of
26 Commerce; Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and
27 Atmosphere and acting National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator,
28 United States Department of Commerce; Eric Olson, Chair, North Pacific Fishery
29 Management Council, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States
30 Department of Commerce; Chris W. Oliver, Executive Director, North Pacific Fishery
31 Management Council, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States

- 1 Department of Commerce; each officer of the National Ocean Council; and the Honorable
- 2 Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
- 3 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.