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REPRESENTATIVE MIKE CHENAULT SPEAKER OF THE ALASKA STATE HOUSE

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Joint Resolution 25: Supporting the leases issued by the United States Department of the Interior to Royal Dutch Shell in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas; urging the Governor of the State of Washington, the Seattle City Council, and other public officials in the State of Washington to refrain from destructive attacks on the economy, jobs, and lives of the people of this state and the State of Washington and first consider closing the Boeing production facilities to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide from commercial activity; and inviting Royal Dutch Shell to use a port in this state as the homeport of its Arctic drilling fleet if the lease with the Port of Seattle is terminated.

House Joint Resolution 25 was introduced in response to a letter from Washington Governor Jay Inslee to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell requesting the Department of Interior to withhold from issuing any further lease sales for drilling operations off the Arctic coast. Governor Inslee cites "tremendous ecological dangers and would pose significant challenges in responding to a spill or accident." The Governor also notes that opening new areas in the Arctic conflicts with federal and states' efforts to shift to cleaner forms of energy and reduce carbon pollution that drives climate change. The Seattle City Council also sent a letter to Secretary Jewell urging the revocation of the leases held by Royal Dutch Shell in the Arctic that oil and gas drilling and development in the Arctic will contribute to global climate change.

The resolution requests Governor Inslee and the Seattle City Council to refrain from destructive attacks on the economy, jobs and lives of Alaskans and urges them to look within their own state at Boeing production facilities if they are truly worried about carbon dioxide emissions from commercial activity.

The final resolve invites Royal Dutch Shell to use a port in Alaska as its homeport for its Arctic drilling fleet should the lease with the Port of Seattle be terminated.