

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/13/15
Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

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 to look first at closing the Boeing production facilities to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide from commercial activity; 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; and requesting that the Alaska Congressional delegation support restricting the Export-Import Bank of the United States to lending only to small businesses.

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

WHEREAS this state pursued statehood in order to control its own economic destiny and not to be subject to the special interests of the State of Washington or any entity that

1 would treat this state like a mere colony; and

2 **WHEREAS** this state is fortunate to have, on the outer continental shelf offshore of
3 the state, large oil and gas deposits, including deposits in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas that
4 are estimated to include up to 12,000,000,000 barrels of oil and 54,000,000,000,000 cubic feet
5 of natural gas; and

6 **WHEREAS** Royal Dutch Shell has paid the United States Department of the Interior
7 \$2,100,000,000 for gas leases and has invested approximately \$3,000,000,000 to develop
8 those leases; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in February 2015, the Port of Seattle entered into a two-year lease with
10 Foss Maritime on behalf of Royal Dutch Shell for a 50-acre parcel of the Seattle waterfront to
11 serve as the homeport of the Arctic drilling fleet; and

12 **WHEREAS** the lease would continue to enhance the economic ties between the states
13 of Alaska and Washington and would provide between 500 and 700 good paying jobs for
14 people in the State of Washington; and

15 **WHEREAS** environmental groups have filed a lawsuit to nullify the lease and the
16 Seattle City Council, Seattle Mayor Edward B. Murray, and Washington Governor Jay Inslee
17 have publicly opposed the lease on the basis that Arctic drilling is harmful to the global
18 environment; and

19 **WHEREAS** all nine members of the Seattle City Council and Washington Governor
20 Jay Inslee have sent formal letters to Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior,
21 urging the revocation of the leases held by Royal Dutch Shell in the Arctic on the basis that
22 oil and gas drilling and development in the Arctic will contribute to global climate change;
23 and

24 **WHEREAS** the State of Washington is home to the Boeing Company, the largest
25 producer of aircraft and one of the largest contributors of carbon dioxide emissions in the
26 world; and

27 **WHEREAS** the closure of the Boeing production facilities would represent a
28 reduction of 650 aircraft a year that otherwise would discharge more than 500,000 tons of
29 carbon dioxide during the lifetimes of those aircraft and would provide a significant reduction
30 in the release of pollutants into the atmosphere; and

31 **WHEREAS** the Export-Import Bank of the United States finances the construction of

1 aircraft manufactured for export in the State of Washington by the Boeing Company, thus
2 enabling the construction of more carbon dioxide-producing aircraft; and

3 **WHEREAS** development of the Arctic outer continental shelf waters is critical to the
4 economic security of the state, the continued viability of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System,
5 and the energy security of the United States; and

6 **WHEREAS** the State of Washington and the City of Seattle are urging and taking
7 action that would harm the economic development of the state and its citizens, while at the
8 same time the State of Washington and the City of Seattle benefit from the development of
9 the state's resources through 113,000 jobs for Washington residents, annual business sales to
10 the state of \$5,000,000,000, and cargo bound for the state that comprises 80 percent of the
11 domestic cargo passing through State of Washington ports; and

12 **WHEREAS** this state stands ready to assist Royal Dutch Shell in the development of
13 its leases in the Arctic and has available potential homeports at Dutch Harbor and Seward; a
14 homeport in this state could benefit from the jobs that the City of Seattle and the State of
15 Washington consider to be unworthy for their residents;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature affirms its support of the leases
17 issued by the United States Department of the Interior to Royal Dutch Shell in the Chukchi
18 and Beaufort Seas; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Governor of the
20 State of Washington, the Seattle City Council, and other public officials in the State of
21 Washington to refrain from destructive attacks on the economy, jobs, and lives of the people
22 of this state and the State of Washington; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Governor of the
24 State of Washington, the Seattle City Council, and other public officials in the State of
25 Washington first to consider closing the Boeing production facilities in the State of
26 Washington if they are truly concerned about the effects of emissions of carbon dioxide from
27 commercial activity; and be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature hereby requests that the
29 congressional delegation of the state support restricting the Export-Import Bank of the United
30 States to lending only to small businesses; and be it

31 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature invites Royal Dutch Shell

1 to use a port in this state as the homeport of its Arctic drilling fleet if the lease with the Port of
2 Seattle is terminated.

3 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States
4 Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senator; the Honorable Maria
5 Cantwell, U.S. Senator; the Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, U.S. Representative; the
6 Honorable David G. Reichert, U.S. Representative; the Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler,
7 U.S. Representative; the Honorable Dan Newhouse, U.S. Representative; the Honorable Jim
8 McDermott, U.S. Representative; the Honorable Adam Smith, U.S. Representative; the
9 Honorable Rick Larsen, U.S. Representative; the Honorable Suzan DelBene, U.S.
10 Representative; the Honorable Derek Kilmer, U.S. Representative; the Honorable Denny
11 Heck, U.S. Representative; the Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor of the State of Washington;
12 the Honorable Edward B. Murray, Mayor of the City of Seattle; Tim Burgess, President,
13 Seattle City Council; Sally Bagshaw, Councilmember, Seattle City Council; Sally J. Clark,
14 Councilmember, Seattle City Council; Jean Godden, Councilmember, Seattle City Council;
15 Bruce A. Harrell, Councilmember, Seattle City Council; Nick Licata, Councilmember, Seattle
16 City Council; Mike O'Brien, Councilmember, Seattle City Council; Tom Rasmussen,
17 Councilmember, Seattle City Council; Kshama Sawant, Councilmember, Seattle City
18 Council; Ben van Beurden, Chief Executive Officer, Royal Dutch Shell; and the Honorable
19 Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
20 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.