

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE WESTLAKE

Introduced: 4/7/17

Referred: House Special Committee on Arctic Policy, Economic Development, and Tourism

A RESOLUTION

1 **Commending the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee; supporting the adoption of**
2 **prevention measures into international agreements to ensure clear, universal, and**
3 **enforceable marine safety measures in the Arctic; and urging the state's delegation in**
4 **the United States Congress and the governor to promote the adoption of spill prevention**
5 **measures into international agreements; urging the President of the United States and**
6 **the United States Department of State to initiate negotiations to enter into international**
7 **agreements to ensure safe and environmentally responsible marine operations in the**
8 **Arctic.**

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

10 **WHEREAS** the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee has been formed by marine
11 mammal hunting groups, Arctic municipalities, and Arctic marine ship operators to identify
12 and promote safe and environmentally responsible shipping operations in the Arctic; and

13 **WHEREAS**, because of the lack of spill response capacity in the Arctic, the United
14 States Coast Guard has authorized vessels to adopt spill prevention measures in lieu of

1 meeting the response standard; and

2 **WHEREAS**, even under the best circumstances, only 20 percent of spilled oil is
3 recovered, indicating the importance of spill prevention measures; and

4 **WHEREAS** prevention measures include active vessel tracking and monitoring,
5 prescribed routing measures, immediate notification of a loss of vessel power or steering,
6 identification of vessels nearby with an opportunity to respond, identification of ports of
7 refuge, repositioning towing packages and ship arrestors, and dynamic protection of local
8 marine mammal resources; and

9 **WHEREAS** prevention measures only apply to vessels calling on a port in the United
10 States; and

11 **WHEREAS** vessels not calling on a port in the United States are considered in
12 innocent passage and not subject to prevention measures; and

13 **WHEREAS** the United States has not ratified the Law of the Sea Treaty and
14 accordingly may not use Article 234, which authorizes coastal states with "ice-covered areas"
15 to require special protection measures; and

16 **WHEREAS** universal adherence to marine protection measures in the Arctic may also
17 occur through international bilateral agreements or by the adoption of measures in the Polar
18 Code of the International Maritime Organization;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature commends the formation of the
20 Arctic Waterways Safety Committee and appreciates its leadership in establishing safe
21 shipping practices in state water; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the adoption of
23 prevention measures into international agreements to ensure clear, universal, and enforceable
24 marine safety measures in the Arctic; and be it

25 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the governor and the
26 state's congressional delegation to promote the adoption of spill prevention measures into
27 international agreements with member organizations, including the Northern Forum; and be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the President of the
29 United States and the United States Department of State to initiate negotiations with the state's
30 coastal neighbors to enter into international agreements to ensure safe and environmentally
31 responsible marine operations in the Arctic.

1 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
2 of the United States; the Honorable Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the United States and
3 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the U.S. House of
4 Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of
5 Representatives; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
6 Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lisa
7 Murkowski, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the
8 Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
9 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 115th United
10 States Congress.