

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/1/99

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS PEARCE, Phillips, Taylor

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting the responsible development of the Tulsequah Chief Mine through the
2 cooperative effort of Alaska and British Columbia and urging Governor Knowles
3 to withdraw his request for a referral of the Tulsequah Chief Mine to the
4 International Joint Commission under the Boundary Waters Treaty.

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

6 WHEREAS the governments of Alaska and British Columbia both recognize the
7 importance of environmentally responsible development in meeting the needs of their
8 respective populations; and

9 WHEREAS the Tulsequah Chief Mine project has been subjected to over three years
10 of thorough environmental review including completion of the cooperative environmental
11 assessment review process of British Columbia and Canada; and

12 WHEREAS representatives of British Columbian and Canadian federal agencies, as
13 well as agencies from Alaska and the United States, have participated with the project
14 committee; and

15 WHEREAS, subsequent to the issuance of the Environmental Assessment Certificate
16 in March of 1998, these governmental agencies engaged in a series of cooperative meetings,

1 discussions, and exchanges of technical details regarding the project; and

2 **WHEREAS** these constructive and cooperative interactions have allowed officials to
3 review in detail how British Columbia and Canada will respond to the specific technical
4 concerns raised by officials of Alaska and the United States, and, in most cases, the planned
5 responses are along the lines proposed by these same officials; and

6 **WHEREAS** these exchanges have allowed the parties to explore and understand the
7 differences between their respective approaches to accountable environmental assessment and
8 have allowed the Canadian participants to demonstrate that the environmental standards
9 applied to the project are similar in measure to those applied to similar projects in Alaska; and

10 **WHEREAS** the government of British Columbia has provided clear assurances that
11 the mine will not be developed if it fails to meet these standards; and

12 **WHEREAS** the government of British Columbia has offered to have officials of
13 Alaska and the United States continue to be involved in the review of the project by
14 participating in specific permitting activities as further detailed permitting takes place; and

15 **WHEREAS** the government of British Columbia, as well as the Alaska agencies, have
16 a great deal of confidence in the environmental assessment process and recognize that the
17 technically detailed permits will be thoroughly reviewed as the project proceeds; and

18 **WHEREAS** continued cooperative work within British Columbia's established
19 regulatory process will help ensure that the development of the Tulsequah Chief Mine takes
20 place in an environmentally responsible manner; and

21 **WHEREAS** the government of British Columbia has made assurances that the
22 development of the Tulsequah Chief Mine will result in no transboundary impacts;

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recommends continuing the
24 cooperative effort between the two governments toward the environmentally responsible
25 development of the Tulsequah Chief Mine; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges Governor
27 Knowles to withdraw the request for a referral of the Tulsequah Chief Mine project to the
28 International Joint Commission under the Boundary Waters Treaty.

29 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor
30 of Alaska; to the Honorable Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government
31 of Canada; to the Honorable Dan Miller, Minister of Energy and Mines of the Government

1 of British Columbia; to the Honorable Bill Goodacre, Member, Legislative Assembly of
2 British Columbia; to the Honorable Madeleine K. Albright, United States Secretary of State;
3 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and
4 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in
5 Congress.