

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE BY REQUEST

Introduced: 4/9/99

Referred: Labor and Commerce

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to workers and family members of workers exposed to radiation during
2 the Amchitka nuclear tests.

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

4 WHEREAS the largest underground nuclear bomb tests ever conducted by the
5 government of the United States were conducted as part of the Amchitka nuclear bomb test
6 program; and

7 WHEREAS many Alaska workers who worked at the Amchitka Island, Alaska,
8 nuclear bomb test program have reported what appears to be an inordinately high rate of
9 radiation-related diseases, including various kinds of cancer; and

10 WHEREAS the workers have been unable for years to obtain information on the tests
11 in which they were involved in order to prove their entitlement to compensation for their
12 medical needs because the United States Department of Energy has advised them that the
13 information is classified; and

14 WHEREAS the Amchitka Technical Advisory Group has unanimously requested a
15 medical surveillance program of Amchitka workers; and

16 WHEREAS some of the information necessary for workers to establish their

1 entitlement to medical benefits and other compensation has been released, but more
2 information apparently remains classified;

3 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Congress of the
4 United States to fund a medical surveillance program to cover the health concerns of the
5 Amchitka workers; and be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the United States Department of Energy and the
7 department's subcontractors are requested to expeditiously resolve the pending worker
8 compensation claims and litigation filed by injured workers from Amchitka and the surviving
9 family members of deceased workers at Amchitka; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Congress of the United States amend the Radiation
11 Exposure Compensation Act of 1990 to include Amchitka Island, Alaska, within its coverage.

12 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President
13 of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority
14 Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of
15 Representatives; the Honorable Bill Richardson, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy;
16 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and
17 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in
18 Congress.