

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR MYERS

Introduced: 2/26/25

Referred: Transportation

A RESOLUTION

Urging the United States Congress to enact a Jones Act waiver to facilitate transportation of domestic liquefied natural gas between ports in the state.

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

WHEREAS natural gas production in the state primarily comes from two regions: Cook Inlet and the North Slope; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, 39 percent of the electricity generated in the state was from natural gas, and nearly half of households in the state use natural gas to heat their homes; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Natural Resources has projected shortfalls in the Cook Inlet natural gas supply beginning in 2027, and the Southcentral region of the state is facing a significant natural gas shortage despite exploration efforts by operators; and

WHEREAS Cook Inlet is an aging oil and gas field that is expected to be depleted by the mid-2030s, requiring significant investment for further production; and

WHEREAS, in February 2024, Anchorage switched much of its electricity generation from natural gas to significantly more expensive diesel and faced the possibility of natural gas curtailments resulting from high demand for natural gas outstripping supply; and

WHEREAS Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is heavily dependent on natural gas

1 from Cook Inlet, causing national security to be affected by the natural gas shortage; and

2 **WHEREAS** Fort Wainwright, Eielson Air Force Base, Fort Greely, and Clear Space
3 Force Station benefit from electricity produced by natural gas in the Southcentral region of
4 the state; and

5 **WHEREAS** the utility companies in the Southcentral region of the state are
6 considering liquefied natural gas imports in the near future to solve the crisis; and

7 **WHEREAS** the natural gas supply within the North Slope is approximately
8 35,000,000,000,000 cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves and 200,000,000,000,000 cubic
9 feet of potential natural gas resources that could lead to long-term viability of selling North
10 Slope natural gas resources on a commercial scale; and

11 **WHEREAS** a natural gas liquefaction plant is already being constructed on the North
12 Slope for trucking natural gas to the Interior region of the state; and

13 **WHEREAS** trucking natural gas from the North Slope to the Southcentral region of
14 the state is uneconomical in the quantities needed; and

15 **WHEREAS** the construction of a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope natural
16 gas fields would bring natural gas to both the Interior and Southcentral regions of the state,
17 providing both energy stability and lower costs; and

18 **WHEREAS** the economic costs of a natural gas pipeline have delayed construction
19 for almost five decades, and construction of a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to the
20 Southcentral region of the state would not be completed until at least 2031, long after
21 shortfalls are predicted to begin in 2027; and

22 **WHEREAS** 46 U.S.C. 55102, originally enacted by the Merchant Marine Act of
23 1920, commonly known as the Jones Act, mandates that any vessel transporting cargo
24 between United States ports be built in the United States, owned by United States citizens,
25 and crewed mostly by United States citizens; and

26 **WHEREAS**, currently, there are no Jones Act-compliant natural gas tanker vessels
27 available to transport natural gas between ports in the state; and

28 **WHEREAS** the Jones Act limits domestic imports of critical goods like liquefied
29 natural gas between domestic ports, prohibiting the state from transporting its own natural gas
30 from the gas fields on the North Slope to the largest population centers of the Southcentral
31 region of the state; and

1 **WHEREAS** the United States is the largest liquefied natural gas exporter in the
2 world, but the state is effectively prohibited from transporting domestic liquefied natural gas
3 to the state from other ports in the United States because of the Jones Act; and

4 **WHEREAS** waivers to the Jones Act were granted for transportation of natural gas
5 and petroleum following hurricanes in 2005, 2012, and 2017; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 2006, a waiver to the Jones Act was granted to tow a jack-up oil
7 drilling rig from the Gulf of Mexico to the state for drilling in the Cook Inlet; and

8 **WHEREAS** shipping liquefied natural gas in small containers could lower energy
9 costs for many of the state's coastal communities that are currently shipping in expensive
10 diesel for electricity generation and other energy needs; and

11 **WHEREAS** the sustainable development of the state's rich energy resources will
12 contribute to domestic energy security and economic prosperity, both in the state and
13 throughout the United States;

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the United
15 States Congress to recognize the imminent and acute need to stabilize the state's energy
16 supply and enact a Jones Act waiver that facilitates the urgent transportation of domestic
17 liquefied natural gas between ports in the state until Jones Act-compliant vessels are
18 available.

19 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
20 of the United States; the Honorable JD Vance, Vice President of the United States and
21 President of the Senate, the Honorable Sean Duffy, United States Secretary of Transportation;
22 and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the
23 Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in
24 Congress.