

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 45

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES STOLTZE, Millett, Chenault, Dahlstrom, Gatto, Keller, Olson, Peggy Wilson, Hawker, Ramras, Lynn, Neuman

Introduced: 2/17/10

Referred: House Special Committee on Energy, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress not to enact Cap and Trade legislation.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** Senate Bill 1733, the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act is
4 waiting to be heard in the United States Senate; and

5 **WHEREAS** House Resolution 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of
6 2009, has passed the United States House of Representatives and is waiting to be voted on in
7 the United States Senate; and

8 **WHEREAS** cap and trade legislation has been a presidential priority that has been
9 backed by a partisan Congress; and

10 **WHEREAS**, while emissions cap and trade legislation attempts to minimize the
11 impact of environmental restrictions on industry by offering economic incentives, the
12 legislation would result in unnecessary regulation and economic interference by the federal
13 government; and

14 **WHEREAS** additional environmental regulation and incentive programs will hinder
15 the nation's free market economy, increase federal involvement in business, and mandate state
16 oversight; and

1 **WHEREAS** the United States refrained from ratifying the Kyoto Protocol in 2007
2 because of the economic hindrances that would be imposed on businesses in the United
3 States; and

4 **WHEREAS** the America's Climate Security Act of 2007, a less severe alternative to
5 the Kyoto Protocol, was rejected by the United States Senate in the interest of protecting the
6 United States economy; and

7 **WHEREAS** cap and trade measures make traditional electricity, heating, and
8 transportation fuels more costly through rationing, while generating hundreds of billions of
9 dollars in federal tax revenue from oil, coal, and natural gas production; and

10 **WHEREAS** stringent economic constraints threaten to drive industry out of the
11 United States at a time when our economy requires encouragement rather than hindrance; and

12 **WHEREAS** arguments for phasing out fossil fuel uses have relied primarily on global
13 climate calculations compiled by the climate Research Unit of the University of East Anglia
14 (CRU), the National Climate Data Center (NOAA-NCDC), and the NASA Goddard Institute
15 for Space Studies, on behalf of the International Panel on Climate Change; and

16 **WHEREAS** recent discoveries of fraudulent activities within these international
17 reporting organizations, which have concluded that the planet is rapidly warming despite
18 substantiated evidence of cooling over the last decade, have rendered the 2007 IPCC
19 Assessment Report 4 (AR4) scientifically questionable and unreliable as a foundation for
20 establishing public policy; and

21 **WHEREAS** the process of allocation for the distribution of emissions allowances in
22 the Senate Bill 1733 does not take into account the unique situation of Alaska relative to the
23 remainder of the nation, including its population, geographic size, and extreme climate, and,
24 as such, disadvantage the state as a whole; and

25 **WHEREAS** cap and trade legislation will have unforeseen effects on the economy
26 and on the livelihood of the citizens of Alaska; and

27 **WHEREAS** the economy of the State of Alaska relies on the responsible development
28 of our abundant natural resources, unburdened by superfluous regulations that are not specific
29 to Alaska's market and industrial character; and

30 **WHEREAS** Alaska is a major exporter of carbon-based energy, and receives more
31 than 80 percent of its unrestricted general fund revenue directly from oil and gas operations

1 and produces approximately 13 percent of the nation's oil supply; and

2 **WHEREAS** Alaska's refineries, which are essential to our economy and cold weather
3 fuel needs, are uniquely vulnerable to increased costs associated with cap and trade
4 legislation; and

5 **WHEREAS** prospects for the construction of an Alaska natural gas pipeline with the
6 capacity to supply affordable and clean energy to the state and the nation as a whole would be
7 severely damaged on both the developmental and delivery levels under cap and trade
8 legislation; and

9 **WHEREAS** the cap and trade program, as proposed in the American Clean Energy
10 and Security Act of 2009, will be fundamentally detrimental to the economy and to workers in
11 the state, by stifling economic development, resulting in potentially enormous job losses; and

12 **WHEREAS** natural resource development in the state, including refinery operations
13 and proposed infrastructure projects will be negatively impacted by limiting carbon dioxide
14 and greenhouse gas emissions;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
16 congress not to enact cap and trade legislation that would negatively affect Alaskans through
17 the elimination of jobs and increased costs for goods and services, and, instead, enact
18 legislation that encourages states to establish and develop their own renewable energy
19 portfolio standards; and be it

20 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Alaska State Legislature supports measures that
21 encourage investments in technology to address carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas
22 emissions.

23 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
24 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
25 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of
26 Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; and the
27 Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the
28 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.