

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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North to the Future

Senator Cathy Giessel

Senate District N

Sponsor Statement

Senate Joint Resolution 18 “Support Shell Port of Seattle Lease”

SJR 18 urges the state of Washington’s Governor, the Seattle City Council and other public officials in Washington to stop interfering with the economic development of the State of Alaska.

Recently, the governor of Washington wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell urging that the Department of the Interior refrain from issuing any further leases sales for drilling operations in the Arctic. The Seattle City Council also sent a letter to Secretary Jewell urging the revocation of the leases in the Arctic, citing that oil and gas development will contribute to global climate change.

This resolution is specifically directed at Washington’s interference with the potential development of large oil and gas deposits in the outer continental shelf in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas by Royal Dutch Shell. Its present actions are hindering the numerous opportunities for economic development within the Arctic region of Alaska.

If Washington State is truly concerned with carbon dioxide emissions and environmental impacts in our nation, then it ought to look within its own borders, and consider closing down their Boeing aircraft production facility. This Boeing plant produces an average of 650 aircraft a year that discharge more than 500,000 tons of carbon dioxide in their lifetimes (based on a carbon emissions calculator). SJR 18 further points out that the U.S. Export-Import Bank helps finance the aircraft being manufactured by Boeing, which is enabling the construction of carbon dioxide-producing aircraft. The U.S. Export-Import Bank helps companies subsidize the cost of their products, allowing more products to be sold on the international market.

SJR 18 also emphasizes that the State of Alaska would support providing Royal Dutch Shell with a port in Alaska, thus taking the potential 500-700 jobs and additional estimated revenue from the harbor rental lease that Washington State seemingly does not want. Currently, Washington State and the City of Seattle enjoy approximately 113,000 jobs and approximately \$5 billion dollars in annual business sales as a result of economic development in the State of Alaska.

I urge you to support this resolution and send a strong message to Washington State that Alaska will not tolerate its unsolicited interference in the multi-faceted and nationally strategic economic development plan for the Arctic.

Chair Senate Resources Committee | Vice-Chair Health & Social Services | Vice-Chair Labor & Commerce

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