



Alaska State Legislature

1971

Source:

HJR 57

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 57

Relating to the protection of North Pacific waters and shorelines.

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

WHEREAS the State of Alaska is bordered by 60 per cent of the shoreline of the United States and for these many years those waters have generously yielded to the citizens of Alaska and the world its most generous harvest; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska is vitally concerned that her coastal zones be protected to the greatest degree possible; and

WHEREAS the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and the Canadian province of British Columbia are bound together by their common coastlines on these waters and share their yield; and

WHEREAS any major disaster at sea would have the potential to adversely affect the waters and shorelines of all; and

WHEREAS there is considerable transport by tankers of petroleum products between the ports of the United States and Canada, and also inbound to the ports of Canada and the United States from foreign nations; and

WHEREAS the State of Washington recently enacted pioneering legislation dealing with the liability for petroleum spillage at sea, and there has been introduced into the Alaska Legislature legislation of a similar nature; and

WHEREAS the good citizens of British Columbia have expressed concern over the problems of marine transit of

petroleum products in the North Pacific, and the citizens of California have recently suffered misfortune in their waters through the collision of petroleum tankers in San Francisco Bay; and

WHEREAS it would appear that our common stake in the protection of the North Pacific, our common need for the transit of needed yet volatile products, and the fact that a threat to the waters of any state or province bordering the North Pacific must inevitably become a threat to the others, all point to the necessity of seeking common solutions to the potential or current problems involved; and

WHEREAS the Legislature of the State of Alaska has recently created a select committee charged with the capacity of meeting with our neighbors of the North Pacific to explore on a common basis solutions to these common problems;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the legislative bodies of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and California to designate some group that might meet with the representatives of the others in the near future to search out the potential for a common approach for the security of neighboring coasts through the development of a NORTH PACIFIC MARINE TRANSIT AND COASTAL PROTECTION COMPACT.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of Washington, California and Oregon; and to the Parliament of British Columbia.