

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1988

Source

CSHJR 40 (Res)

Legislative  
Resolve No.

92



Relating to petroleum research and development in the state.

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

WHEREAS petroleum production in the state provides nearly 85 percent of the revenue for the state and will continue to be the major economic force in the state for coming decades; and

WHEREAS the state presently provides nearly 24 percent of the domestic crude oil produced in the United States; and

WHEREAS the petroleum resources in the state's arctic, subarctic, and offshore regions are expected to constitute nearly 40 percent of all of the future petroleum resources found within the United States in the near future; and

WHEREAS potential incremental oil production through enhanced oil recovery could amount to 10,000,000 barrels from known Alaska reserves; and

WHEREAS enhanced oil recovery from current and future oil fields in the state will require continuing basic laboratory research and modeling; and

WHEREAS the arctic North Slope represents a unique and major petroleum province that has special research needs and requires special technology; and

WHEREAS the state is well suited geographically to be the site for a research center for the petroleum development needs of the arctic North Slope; and

WHEREAS the United States Department of Energy is interested in increasing the domestic supply of petroleum by encouraging scientific and technological advances at all stages of Alaska

petroleum resource assessment, research development, and technology transfer; and

WHEREAS, based on the advice of the United States Energy Research Advisory Board, the United States Congress has appropriated funds for the U.S. Department of Energy to initiate geoscience and enhanced oil recovery research and development; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Energy and Alaska recognize that it would be beneficial to cooperatively sponsor those projects on petroleum resource identification and extraction in which both the department and the state are interested; and

WHEREAS the state and the U.S. Department of Energy also recognize that it is beneficial to help promote petroleum resource identification, petroleum research characterization, development of extraction technology for petroleum resources, and the transfer of petroleum research technology to the private sector; and

WHEREAS the state is the owner of vast oil reserves now being produced by lessees at Prudhoe Bay, Kuparuk, and other fields, but the state is not at this time able to analyze the industry's estimate about when production from these vast fields will begin to decline; and

WHEREAS the state's revenue projections are affected by the decline projections provided by industry, and the projected decline of the Prudhoe Bay field has been changed from 1987 to 1990; and

WHEREAS the state will benefit from petroleum research that includes reservoir analysis and understanding of the actual benefits derived from enhanced oil recovery; and

WHEREAS the Petroleum Development Laboratory of the University of Alaska, Interior/Western, at Fairbanks is a nationally recognized and well-equipped petroleum research center that places special emphasis on the unique problems associated with development of the petroleum resources of the state;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports petroleum research and development and urges the Governor and the Alaska congressional delegation to continue to encourage petroleum research and development in the state by supporting the Petroleum Development Laboratory of the University of Alaska, Interior/Western, at Fairbanks; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy to recognize the importance to national security of petroleum research and development at the Petroleum Development Laboratory of the University of Alaska, Interior/Western, at Fairbanks.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable John S. Herrington, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.