

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1993

Source
HJR 25

Legislative
Resolve No.
5



Relating to implementation of the Aleutian Trade Act of 1990.

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

WHEREAS Alaskans working and living in remote areas of the Aleutian Islands chain have historically relied on fish tender vessels to provide coastal freighter services for general and fisheries cargo in support of Aleutian Islands chain communities and their own fishing operations; and

WHEREAS containerized freight vessels concentrate on high volume ports on a seasonal basis and provide virtually no interport service in the Aleutian Islands chain; and

WHEREAS foreign freighters are unregulated, provide only itinerant freight services to the Aleutian Islands chain, take only the most profitable freight cargoes, and detract from the coastal freighter service provided by domestic fish tender vessels in the Aleutian trade; and

WHEREAS the fish tender vessels in the Aleutian trade have a proven safety record over the past decades; and

WHEREAS the United States Coast Guard has recently proposed vessel safety regulations (CGD 88-079a) to implement the Aleutian Trade Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-595, Title

VI) and the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-424), which, if adopted, would seriously jeopardize the continued ability of fish tender vessels in the Aleutian trade to provide coastal freighter service by requiring cost prohibitive retrofits and alterations for these fish tender vessels; and

WHEREAS 46 U.S.C. 4502(e)(2) expressly prohibits the adoption of vessel safety regulations that require alterations to vessels constructed before the effective date of vessel safety regulations proposed by the United States Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature strongly believes that it is in the best interest of Alaskans living and working on the Aleutian Islands chain, to continue, and not disrupt, the existing coastal freighter service provided by fish tender vessels in the Aleutian trade and to encourage competition among the providers of freight service in the Aleutian Islands chain; and

WHEREAS comments on the proposed vessel safety regulations must be received by the Executive Secretary of the Marine Safety Council by February 28, 1993;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Coast Guard comply with the directive of the Congress under 46 U.S.C. 4502(e)(2) and not adopt vessel safety regulations that require alterations of a vessel or equipment of a vessel used in the Aleutian trade so as to not disrupt essential freight service to the Aleutian Islands chain.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Federico Pena, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation; Admiral J. William Kime, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard; the Executive Secretary, Marine Safety Council, U.S. Coast Guard; 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.