

# STATE OF ALASKA SENATE

1994

**Source**

CSSR 2(HES) am

**Senate**

**Resolve No.**

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Urging the Environmental Protection Agency to request a moratorium from the Congress for the MTBE oxygenated fuels programs in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska.

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**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:**

**WHEREAS** preliminary findings from an epidemiology study performed by the Department of Health and Social Services, released on December 23, 1992, led to the recommendation that the oxygenated fuels program in Anchorage should be suspended; and

**WHEREAS** preliminary findings from an epidemiology study performed by the Department of Health and Social Services, released on December 11, 1992, led to the recommendation that the oxygenated fuels program in Fairbanks should be suspended; and

**WHEREAS** the health effects of blending methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) with gasoline are unknown, especially in exceptionally cold climates such as in Anchorage and Fairbanks; and

**WHEREAS** a significant number of Anchorage and Fairbanks residents have asked for a suspension of the MTBE oxygenated fuels program through petition signatures, opinions expressed at public forums, letters, phone calls, and public opinion messages to legislators; and

**WHEREAS** there are other methods, such as natural gas vehicles and increased bus service, for reducing carbon monoxide pollution; and

**WHEREAS** the oxygenated fuels program could be reintroduced if the cold weather health effects of MTBE-blended oxyfuels are determined to be safe to human health;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Senate urges the Environmental Protection Agency to request a moratorium from the Congress for the Anchorage and Fairbanks oxygenated fuels programs so that they are not resumed for the winter of 1994 - 1995 unless complete and conclusive studies clearly show that MTBE-blended fuels are not harmful to our citizens' health and that MTBE-blended fuels are the most effective way to reduce carbon monoxide pollution in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to Carol M. Browner, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; 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; and to the Honorable Tom Fink, Mayor, Municipality of Anchorage; and the Honorable Jim Sampson, Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough.