

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROKEBERG, Ogan, Navarre

Introduced: 2/1/95

Referred: House Special Committee on World Trade and State/Federal Relations, House Special Committee on Oil and Gas

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to uphold Alaska's right to 90 percent of the
2 royalties from oil, gas, and coal leasing on state land as provided by the
3 Statehood Compact adopted by a vote of the people of Alaska on April 24, 1956.

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

5 WHEREAS the Congress of the United States, by the Alaska Statehood Act approved
6 on July 7, 1958, accepted, ratified, and confirmed the state constitution that had been adopted
7 by a vote of the people of Alaska in the election held on April 24, 1956; and

8 WHEREAS the Alaska Statehood Act provided for the admission of the State of
9 Alaska into the Union on an equal footing with the other states of the Union, upon compliance
10 with certain procedural requirements specified in that Act; and

11 WHEREAS the Alaska Statehood Act contains a binding contract between the people
12 of Alaska and the federal government that the state will receive 90 percent of all oil, gas, and
13 coal leasing royalties from federal land in Alaska; and

14 WHEREAS the State of Alaska had 35 years from the date of admission into the
15 Union to select public land that was vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved in order to
16 establish communities and recreational areas and promote economic development; and

1 **WHEREAS** the federal government has both a moral and legal duty to honor the
2 obligations set out in the several acts admitting Alaska into the Union; and

3 **WHEREAS** the people of the State of Alaska relied on that royalty-sharing provision
4 in ratifying the Alaska Statehood Act on April 24, 1956; and

5 **WHEREAS** the United States Congress included the 90-10 royalty-sharing formula
6 in the compact because Alaska, unlike all other public land states, was not covered by the
7 federal Reclamation Act and did not derive benefits from that Act; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Congress intended the 90-10 royalty-sharing provision to pay for the
9 costs of providing the services of state government; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Congress also intended in the Alaska Statehood Act to compensate
11 Alaska for the large federal land reservations that stifle economic development; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Congress is considering legislation to reduce Alaska's royalty-sharing
13 percentage for development on federal land; and

14 **WHEREAS** any reduction in the royalty-sharing percentage will infringe on Alaska's
15 constitutional rights; and

16 **WHEREAS** Alaska opposes any unilateral reductions in royalty revenue from federal
17 land exploration and development;

18 **BE IT RESOLVED** that any attempts by the United States Congress or the President
19 of the United States to coerce the State of Alaska into accepting less than what was promised
20 at statehood penalizes the people of Alaska; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the United States Congress join with the state in
22 upholding the Alaska Statehood Compact.

23 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
24 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President
25 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of
26 Representatives; the Honorable Bob Dole, Senate Majority Leader; the Honorable Bruce
27 Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Frank Murkowski, Chair of the Senate
28 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Don Young, Chair of the House
29 Committee on Public Lands and Resources; the Honorable Ted Stevens, U.S. Senator, member
30 of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the governors of the states and to the presiding
31 officers of the houses of the state legislatures.