

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26(O&G)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON OIL AND GAS

Offered: 3/1/95

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES ROKEBERG, Ogan, Navarre

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 Alaska
3 Statehood Act, approved by the United States Congress on July 7, 1958, in
4 which the Congress accepted, ratified, and confirmed the Constitution of the
5 State of Alaska previously adopted by a vote of the people of Alaska on
6 April 24, 1956.**

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS the Alaska Statehood Act contains a binding contract between the people
15 of Alaska and the federal government that the state will receive 90 percent of all oil, gas, and

1 coal leasing royalties from federal land in Alaska; and

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

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

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

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

12 **WHEREAS** the Congress, in the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191), intended the
13 37 1/2 percent royalty to be paid by the United States Treasury for the construction and
14 maintenance of public roads, and for support of public schools or other public educational
15 institutions; and

16 **WHEREAS** the remaining 52 1/2 percent royalty as set out in the Mineral Leasing Act
17 (30 U.S.C. 191) shall be paid directly to the State of Alaska for disposition by the legislature
18 in lieu of payment to the Reclamation Fund created by the United States Congress; and

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

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

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

25 **BE IT RESOLVED** that any attempt by the United States Congress or the President
26 of the United States to impose on the State of Alaska anything less than what was promised
27 at statehood penalizes the people of Alaska; and be it

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

30 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
31 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President

1 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of
2 Representatives; the Honorable Bob Dole, Senate Majority Leader; the Honorable Bruce
3 Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Frank Murkowski, Chair of the Senate
4 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Don Young, Chair of the House
5 Committee on Public Lands and Resources; the Honorable Ted Stevens, U.S. Senator, member
6 of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the governors of the states and to the presiding
7 officers of the houses of the state legislatures.