

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/7/95

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Opposing a proposed international convention classifying coal as a hazardous and**
2 **noxious material.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:**

4 **WHEREAS** the International Maritime Organization (IMO), an organization under the
5 auspices of the United Nations, is currently drafting proposals for an international treaty
6 adopting and expanding insurance indemnity provisions for seaborne commodities; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in contrast to existing maritime classifications and the policies and
8 regulations of the United States Department of Transportation and the United States Coast
9 Guard, the IMO proposes classifying coal as a hazardous and noxious material; and

10 **WHEREAS** there is no rational reason or precedent for classifying coal as a hazardous
11 or noxious material and the current maritime insurance has, without exception, adequately
12 provided insurance indemnity for seaborne coal shipping; and

13 **WHEREAS** action classifying coal as a hazardous or noxious material could
14 significantly increase insurance rates and the delivered cost of coal to the benefit of competing
15 fuel sources; and

16 **WHEREAS** this action would dramatically reduce the competitiveness of coal as an

1 import fuel and reduce the amount of exported coal from countries such as the United States;
2 and

3 **WHEREAS** this action would reduce the potential for the increased export of Alaska
4 coal; and

5 **WHEREAS** the National Coal Association, the United States Coal Exporters
6 Association, and the Alaska Coal Association, together with labor organizations, adamantly
7 oppose the IMO proposal; and

8 **WHEREAS** it is critical that United States government representatives to the IMO
9 convention oppose the classification of coal as a hazardous or noxious material;

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate respectfully urges the United States Senate not
11 to ratify a Hazardous and Noxious Substance Convention proposed by the International
12 Maritime Organization that includes coal as a designated hazardous or noxious material.

13 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President
14 of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bob Dole, Majority
15 Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S.
16 Senate; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators,
17 and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in
18 Congress.