

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES WHITAKER, Harris**

**Introduced: 3/16/01**

**Referred: House Special Committee on Oil and Gas, Resources**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Expressing the legislature's opposition to the proposed "northern" or "over-the-top"**  
2 **route for a natural gas pipeline to transport North Slope natural gas reserves to the**  
3 **domestic North American market, and expressing the legislature's support of**  
4 **commercialization of North Slope natural gas for the maximum benefit of the people of**  
5 **the state.**

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

7 **WHEREAS** 35 trillion cubic feet of known natural gas reserves are acknowledged to  
8 be adherent to oil and gas leases on the North Slope of Alaska, and, additionally, realistic  
9 estimates of total recoverable gas from the reserves exceed 100 trillion cubic feet; and

10 **WHEREAS** demand for new sources of natural gas supply in North American and  
11 Asian markets places Alaska's North Slope natural gas in the unique position of being  
12 attractive to both markets; and

13 **WHEREAS** improved economics, technological advances, and the possibility of  
14 public financing of a natural gas pipeline have removed previously perceived barriers to the  
15 commercialization of Alaska's North Slope natural gas; and

1           **WHEREAS** oil and gas leaseholders on Alaska's North Slope continue to develop  
2 competing gas projects elsewhere in the world while Alaska gas remains warehoused; and

3           **WHEREAS** art. VIII, sec. 1, Constitution of the State of Alaska, provides that it is the  
4 policy of the state to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources  
5 by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest; and

6           **WHEREAS** art. VIII, sec. 2, Constitution of the State of Alaska, requires the  
7 legislature to provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural  
8 resources belonging to the state, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its  
9 people; and

10           **WHEREAS** it is widely recognized that maximum benefit to Alaska from the  
11 commercialization of North Slope natural gas lies in maximum market exposure for Alaska  
12 North Slope gas reserves, maximum opportunities for in-state use of the natural gas,  
13 maximum opportunities for participation by Alaskans in construction, maintenance, and  
14 operation of the gas line transportation project, and maximum revenue to the state from the  
15 development, transport, and sale of Alaska North Slope gas reserves; and

16           **WHEREAS** the "northern" or "over-the-top" route for the proposed pipeline, running  
17 east from the North Slope to Canada's Mackenzie River Valley, then south through that valley  
18 to link to existing pipeline networks, under consideration by the North American Gas Pipeline  
19 Group, offers none of these benefits;

20           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the commercialization  
21 of Alaska North Slope natural gas for the maximum benefit of the people of the state; and be  
22 it

23           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature will exercise every power within its  
24 constitutionally required authority to guarantee commercialization of Alaska North Slope  
25 natural gas for the maximum benefit of the people of the state; and be it

26           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature opposes construction of a "northern" or  
27 "over-the-top" route for a natural gas pipeline; and be it

28           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature will exercise every power within its  
29 authority to prevent the routing of a North Slope natural gas pipeline that bypasses Alaska.