

**CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8(O&G)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON OIL AND GAS**

**Offered: 3/30/01**

**Referred: Resources**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES WHITAKER, Harris**

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

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

14 **WHEREAS** 35 trillion cubic feet of known natural gas reserves are acknowledged to  
15 be adherent to oil and gas leases on the North Slope of Alaska, and, additionally, realistic

1 estimates of total recoverable gas from the reserves exceed 100 trillion cubic feet; and

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

5 **WHEREAS** improved economics, technological advances, and the possibility of  
6 public financing of a natural gas pipeline, including particularly the financing proposal of the  
7 Alaska Gasline Port Authority, a public authority established by Alaska municipalities for the  
8 promotion of transportation-related commerce, have removed previously perceived barriers to  
9 the commercialization of Alaska's North Slope natural gas; and

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

20 **WHEREAS** oil and gas leaseholders on Alaska's North Slope continue to develop  
21 competing gas projects elsewhere in the world, including liquefied natural gas shipments to  
22 North American West Coast ports, while Alaska gas remains warehoused;

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

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

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

31 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature will exercise every power within its

- 1 authority to prevent the routing of a North Slope natural gas pipeline that bypasses Alaska.