

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/6/01

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES WHITAKER, Harris, Wilson, James

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.

2 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
3 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States
4 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House
5 of Representatives; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
6 Honorable Thomas Daschle, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Gale Norton,
7 United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor of the State of
8 Alaska; the Honorable Pat Pourchot, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, the
9 Honorable Wilson L. Condon, Commissioner, Department of Revenue, the Honorable
10 Michele Brown, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, the Honorable
11 Frank Rue, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game, the Honorable Joseph L. Perkins,
12 Commissioner, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the Honorable Ed
13 Flanagan, Commissioner, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Honorable
14 Glenn G. Godfrey, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety, and Patrick Galvin, Director,
15 Division of Governmental Coordination, Office of the Governor, the heads of the agencies
16 specified in Administrative Order 187 with responsibilities with regard to state permits,
17 authorizations, and oversight related to the preconstruction and construction of certain natural
18 gas pipelines; Frank Brown and Jim Sampson, co-chairs, and Mike Navarre, George Wuerch,
19 Grace Schaible, Bill Corbus, Charles Cole, Al Adams, Carl Marrs, Rosemarie Maher, Esther
20 Wunnicke, Jack Roderick, Brian Davies, Jim Jansen, Dave Rose, Ed Rasmuson, Lee Gorsuch,
21 Bob Penney, Rhonda Boyles, Ron Duncan, Ken Thompson, Peg Tileston, Jacob Adams,
22 George Ahmaogak, Jeff Feldman, Jon Rubini, Jerry Hood, and Mike O'Connor, members,
23 Governor's Alaska Highway Natural Gas Policy Council; William G. Britt, Jr., Pipeline
24 Coordinator, Office of the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources; and to the
25 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
26 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.