

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES JOULE, Hudson, Kerttula, Scalzi, Kapsner, Croft**

**Introduced: 3/12/01**

**Referred: Resources**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Opposing Arctic marine shipment of nuclear waste between Russia and Japan.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** there are ongoing negotiations between Russia and Japan to transport  
4 highly radioactive waste by way of a marine route across the Arctic Ocean and through the  
5 Bering Strait; and

6 **WHEREAS** decisions made at these negotiations could significantly affect Alaska  
7 and other states on the west coast of the United States; and

8 **WHEREAS** Alaska has not been invited to participate or consult in any way during  
9 these negotiations; and

10 **WHEREAS** most of the Alaska population living adjacent to these waterways rely on  
11 a subsistence lifestyle, and an accidental release of nuclear waste into the areas would have a  
12 devastating effect on the population's way of life as well as its health; and

13 **WHEREAS** Alaska takes pride in its largely unspoiled environment, clean air, and  
14 clean water; and

15 **WHEREAS** the Arctic ecosystem is fragile; and

16 **WHEREAS** if an accident occurred, it could threaten the entire Arctic Ocean and

1 Bering Sea coastline; and

2       **WHEREAS** the Bering Sea is the most productive fishery in Alaska and one of the  
3 most productive in the North Pacific and the world;

4       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly opposes an Arctic  
5 marine route for transportation of nuclear waste until the nuclear waste to be shipped is  
6 proven to be of little or no risk to Alaska and adjacent waterways, people, and fisheries; and  
7 be it

8       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
9 appropriate officials of the United States government to strongly discourage any agreement  
10 between Japan and Russia to use an Arctic marine route for shipment of nuclear waste.

11       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President  
12 of the United States; the Honorable Colin Powell, United States Secretary of State; the  
13 Honorable James B. Cunningham, Acting United States Representative to the United Nations;  
14 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and  
15 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in  
16 Congress.