

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY SENATOR OLSON**

**Introduced: 3/14/01**

**Referred: Transportation**

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

12 **WHEREAS** if an accident occurred, it could threaten the marine life of the entire  
13 Arctic Ocean and Bering Sea coastline; and

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

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

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

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

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