

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS WILKEN, Leman , Pearce, Ellis

Introduced: 1/17/01

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to supporting the Great Alaska Shootout, the Top of the World Classic, and**
2 **similar preseason basketball tournaments, and requesting that the National Collegiate**
3 **Athletic Association reject legislative proposal No. 2000-106.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** the University of Alaska Anchorage's Great Alaska Shootout basketball
6 tournament and the University of Alaska's Top of the World Classic basketball tournament
7 are two of the premier early or preseason basketball tournaments for National Collegiate
8 Athletic Association (NCAA) member schools; and

9 **WHEREAS** the Great Alaska Shootout began in 1978 and, throughout the past 22
10 years, has been the host to over 4,860 male and female student athletes who similarly have
11 been exposed to the unique culture and experience of Alaska while interacting with the people
12 of Alaska; and

13 **WHEREAS** the Top of the World Classic began in 1996 and provides students in
14 Fairbanks with the opportunity to meet student athletes from schools participating in the
15 classic and to interact with positive role models from different areas of the country and

1 different backgrounds while also exposing the student athletes to the unique culture and
2 experience of Alaska; recently British Petroleum became the prime sponsor for the event; and

3 **WHEREAS** the Great Alaska Shootout and the Top of the World Classic provide an
4 opportunity for Alaska's intercollegiate athletic teams to be exposed to and compete against
5 Division I schools while providing Alaska elementary and secondary school students the
6 opportunity to personally witness topflight intercollegiate athletic competition; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Great Alaska Shootout and the Top of the World Classic have
8 become a tradition in their respective communities, if not in all of Alaska, and create a strong
9 sense of community excitement and participation while providing a needed boost to the local
10 economy; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Great Alaska Shootout and the Top of the World Classic, along with
12 tournaments such as the Black Coaches Association Classic, the Tip Off Classic, the Maui
13 Invitational, Coaches Against Cancer, and other tournaments conducted in Hawaii, Puerto
14 Rico, and other locales, are classified as "exempt" tournaments under current NCAA
15 regulations, which means that the games played at these tournaments do not count towards the
16 28-basketball-game limit that each NCAA Division I member may schedule each year; and

17 **WHEREAS**, on October 25 - 26, 2000, the NCAA Division I Management Council
18 adopted legislative proposal No. 2000-106, which would limit NCAA Division I member
19 institutions to 29 basketball games and one exhibition contest or scrimmage each year and
20 would eliminate the exemption for games played at basketball tournaments such as the Great
21 Alaska Shootout and the Top of the World Classic, thereby eliminating the incentive for a
22 NCAA member institution to participate in these tournaments; and

23 **WHEREAS** the NCAA Division I Management Council and Board of Directors are
24 scheduled to consider legislative proposal No. 2000-106 in April 2001;

25 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges that the NCAA Division I
26 Management Council and Board of Directors recognize the positive contribution that
27 tournaments such as the Great Alaska Shootout and the Top of the World Classic make to the
28 lives and experiences of the student athletes who participate in the tournaments and to the
29 communities that sponsor the tournaments; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the NCAA Division
31 I Management Council and Board of Directors to reject legislative proposal No. 2000-106;

1 and to and be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges all NCAA member
3 institutions that have participated in the Great Alaska Shootout or the Top of the World
4 Classic, their coaches, and their students to contact their conference officials and the members
5 of the NCAA Division I Management Council and Board of Directors to urge the rejection of
6 legislative proposal No. 2000-106.

7 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor of
8 Alaska; the Honorable Mark Hamilton, President of the University of Alaska; Cedric
9 Dempsey, President of the NCAA; Dave Schnase, National Office, NCAA; John T. Casteen
10 III, University of Virginia, Kenneth A. Shaw, Syracuse University, Graham B. Spanier,
11 Pennsylvania State University, Robert Hemenway, University of Kansas, V. Lane Rawlins,
12 University of Memphis, David B. Frohnmayer, University of Oregon, Charles Wethington,
13 University of Kentucky, Robert Lawless, University of Tulsa, Carol Cartwright, Kent State
14 University, Milton Gordon, California State University-Fullerton, Dr. Carol Harter,
15 University of Nevada-Las Vegas, members of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors;
16 Arthur W. Cooper, North Carolina State University, Deborah A. Yow, University of
17 Maryland, Ron Wellman, Wake Forest University, Patricia Thomas, Georgetown University,
18 Gene DeFilippo, Boston College, Stan Wilcox, Big East Conference, Percy Bates, University
19 of Michigan, Ellen Perry, Pennsylvania State University, Clarence Doninger, Indiana
20 University, Gerald Lage, Oklahoma State University, Eugene D. Smith, Iowa State
21 University, Chris Plonsky, University of Texas, Michael L. Slive, Conference USA, Kathryn
22 Statz, Marquette University, Tom Jurich, Louisville University, Edward (Ted) Leland,
23 Stanford University, Betsy Stephenson, University of California-Los Angeles, Robert
24 Aronson, University of Washington, Kathy De Boer, University of Kentucky, Jeremy N.
25 Foley, University of Florida, Damon Evans, University of Georgia, Karl D. Benson, Western
26 Athletic Conference, Andrea Seger, Ball State University, Angela D. Taylor, University of
27 Nevada-Reno, Chris Hill, University of Utah; members of the NCAA Division I Management
28 Council; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.
29 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
30 delegation in Congress.