

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE CRAWFORD

Introduced: 3/5/03

Referred: House Special Committee on Oil and Gas, Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Expressing support for federal energy initiatives affecting Alaska that would reduce the**
2 **nation's continuing dependence on imported foreign oil as its principal energy source.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the nation's dependence on imported oil results in the purchase of much
5 of that oil from nations whose foreign policy aims and human rights standards do not coincide
6 with those of the United States; and

7 **WHEREAS** dependence on foreign oil has threatened national security and has put
8 our military forces in harm's way in order to ensure that oil supplies are not disrupted; and

9 **WHEREAS** the purchase of oil from those nations also provides them with vast
10 financial resources that are often used for the purchase of weaponry that endangers worldwide
11 security; and

12 **WHEREAS** the United States is currently importing more than 55 percent of the
13 petroleum that our nation uses, forcing Americans to suffer from huge spikes in the price of
14 international oil and gas; and

15 **WHEREAS** there is high potential for oil and gas development in the coastal plain of
16 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska; and

1 **WHEREAS** 30 trillion cubic feet of proven reserves of natural gas are currently
2 stranded on the North Slope of Alaska, and vast unproven reserves exist throughout Alaska
3 and Northern Canada; and

4 **WHEREAS** Alaska has a proven 170,000,000,000 tons of coal within the state and a
5 potential 5.5 trillion tons, or one-half the coal reserves in the United States; and

6 **WHEREAS** there is high potential for producing and delivering hydrogen for fuel
7 cells from geothermal power and seawater in the Aleutian Island chain and in other locations
8 using any alternative energy sources, such as tidal hydroelectric, wind, and solar power, with
9 an ample supply of water; and

10 **WHEREAS** the University of Alaska is a world-class land, sea, and space grant
11 institution with significant research facilities and top-notch research faculty;

12 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the development of
13 Alaska's vast energy resources to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil and urges the
14 United States Congress to use the knowledge base at the University of Alaska to harness the
15 energy potential of the state; and be it

16 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the
17 environmentally responsible exploration and development of new oil and gas resources on the
18 North American continent; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the
20 implementation of incentives for a natural gas pipeline project from the North Slope of Alaska
21 to the continental United States; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the development
23 of reasonable energy efficiency standards in America; and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that President George W.
25 Bush and the Congress of the United States are strongly encouraged to develop a 10-year plan
26 for North American energy independence, as the United States did in the 1960s with the 10-
27 year plan to develop the space program, and that Alaska's vast energy resources be used as the
28 backbone of this 10-year plan.

29 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
30 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States
31 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Gale Norton, United States Secretary of the

1 Interior; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
2 Honorable Bill Frist, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
3 Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
4 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to all other members of
5 the 108th United States Congress.