

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/31/04

Referred: Special Order of Business

A RESOLUTION

1 **Establishing the House Special Committee on Natural Gas Pipelines as a special and an**
2 **interim committee of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Third Alaska State**
3 **Legislature.**

4 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

5 **WHEREAS** the North Slope of Alaska contains approximately 35 trillion cubic feet
6 of known natural gas reserves at the wellhead and in excess of 100 trillion cubic feet of
7 estimated natural gas resources; and

8 **WHEREAS** demand for natural gas in the lower 48 states is expected to experience
9 record growth, rising from approximately 22 trillion cubic feet a year in 2000 to 30 to 35
10 trillion cubic feet a year in 2020; and

11 **WHEREAS** demand for liquefied natural gas in Asia and the Pacific is also expected
12 to experience significant growth; and

13 **WHEREAS** demand for natural gas exists in the state, and, if a natural gas pipeline
14 were built through Alaska along a southern route, many communities in the state could be
15 supplied with natural gas; and

1 **WHEREAS** Alaska's North Slope natural gas is attractive to all of these markets; and

2 **WHEREAS** it is widely recognized that maximum benefit to Alaskans from the
3 commercialization of North Slope natural gas lies in market exposure for Alaska North Slope
4 gas reserves, opportunities for in-state use of the natural gas and for participation by Alaskans
5 in construction, maintenance, and operation of the gas pipeline transportation project, and the
6 recovery of revenue by the state from the development, transport, and sale of Alaska North
7 Slope gas reserves; and

8 **WHEREAS** the House of Representatives supports the commercialization of Alaska
9 North Slope gas for the maximum benefit of the people of the state; and

10 **WHEREAS**, given the importance of a natural gas pipeline system and that the
11 regime by which it is developed will have significant and lasting effects on the future of gas
12 development within the state and on future state revenues, it is imperative that the
13 administration of Governor Murkowski and the House of Representatives maintain a liaison
14 to stimulate acceleration of negotiations and the permitting process and to review the effects
15 of a trans Alaska gas pipeline on the state and its people.

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of Representatives that a House Special Committee
17 on Natural Gas Pipelines is established

18 (1) without encroaching on the authority assigned to the Legislative Budget
19 and Audit Committee to review preliminary findings and determinations, proposed contracts
20 and supporting data, and make recommendations, all as required by the Alaska Stranded Gas
21 Development Act (AS 43.82), to study contracts that may be presented by the administration
22 to the legislature under that Act;

23 (2) to study issues relating to the proposed gas pipeline and collect
24 information; the committee may hold hearings if the committee considers hearings desirable;

25 (3) to hire consultants and experts and review their recommendations and
26 reports;

27 (4) to work with the federal and Canadian governments and agencies, the
28 governor, the governor's staff, and outside consultants and experts; and

29 (5) to take whatever action may be appropriate to ensure that the best interests
30 of the state are protected; and be it

31 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House Special Committee on Natural Gas Pipelines

1 shall consider what legislation should be recommended to the House of Representatives for
2 consideration by the Second Session of the Twenty-Third Alaska State Legislature, any
3 special session of that legislature, or the First Regular Session of the Twenty-Fourth Alaska
4 State Legislature to enhance the best interests of the state and shall report to the House of
5 Representatives on any recommended action at the beginning of the First Regular Session of
6 the Twenty-Fourth Alaska State Legislature; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the speaker of the house of representatives shall
8 determine the number of representatives to be members of the committee, appoint the
9 committee members, and designate a member to chair the committee; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House Special Committee on Natural Gas Pipelines
11 may receive, review, and distribute to the members of the House of Representatives
12 nonprivileged, nonconfidential information that it receives from the administration; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House Special Committee on Natural Gas Pipelines
14 may meet during and between sessions of the Twenty-Third Alaska State Legislature and is
15 terminated on the convening of the First Regular Session of the Twenty-Fourth Alaska State
16 Legislature.