

(LIMITED RUN FOR ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS BUNDE, Wilken, Dyson, Cowdery, Taylor, Seekins, Wagoner

REPRESENTATIVES Holm, Masek, Rokeberg, Lynn, Wolf

Introduced: 4/7/03

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the federal government to end the federal subsidy of ethanol, and
2 requesting the Congress of the United States to mandate that land currently used to
3 grow corn for the production of ethanol be returned to its natural state.

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

5 **WHEREAS** it is usually inappropriate for one state to interfere in the resource
6 development of another state; and

7 **WHEREAS** California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South
8 Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin are among the top 20 states that produce ethanol; and

9 **WHEREAS** both United States Senators who represent those states voted against
10 including revenue from oil production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in S.Con.Res.
11 23, the fast-track budget reconciliation bill in the United States Senate, thereby interfering
12 with the resource development of Alaska; and

13 **WHEREAS** 6.2 percent of the nation's corn crop is used to produce ethanol; and

14 **WHEREAS** growth of the federal budget deficit is harmful to the nation's economy;
15 and

1 **WHEREAS** the federal government subsidizes the production of ethanol at 5.3 cents a
2 gallon, resulting in a reduction in federal excise tax receipts of over \$1,000,000,000 during
3 fiscal year 2002, and resulting in a loss to the Federal Highway Trust Fund between 1979 and
4 2000 of between \$7,500,000,000 and \$11,000,000,000; and

5 **WHEREAS** the cost of that subsidy is expected to grow each year; and

6 **WHEREAS** 49 percent of ethanol is produced by four corporations, and 35 percent is
7 produced by Archer Daniels Midland alone, causing the federal ethanol subsidy to be a
8 corporate welfare program imposed on consumers and drivers across the nation; and

9 **WHEREAS** the federal mandate for oxygenated fuels has increased gasoline prices
10 across the country; and

11 **WHEREAS** the use of ethanol leads to emissions of acetaldehyde, a toxic air
12 pollutant, and to carbon dioxide, the primary greenhouse gas; and

13 **WHEREAS** the National Research Council recently concluded that including ethanol
14 in gasoline may have little overall impact on reducing ozone formation; and

15 **WHEREAS** ethanol leads to a decrease of approximately three percent in vehicle
16 energy efficiency; and

17 **WHEREAS** it takes nearly as much energy from fossil fuels to produce ethanol as the
18 ethanol supplies, even if efficient methods of farming and production are used; and

19 **WHEREAS** the General Accounting Office has concluded that the ethanol tax
20 incentive has done little to promote energy security; and

21 **WHEREAS** the corn grown to produce ethanol is grown on lands that were once wild,
22 supporting many species of animals, insects, plants, and birds; and

23 **WHEREAS** those who value wilderness and natural lands gather solace in knowing
24 Alaska's resources are not being developed for profit, the good of Alaska's people, or for
25 national energy security;

26 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the federal
27 government to end the federal subsidy of ethanol; and be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Congress of
29 the United States to mandate that land currently used to grow corn used for the production of
30 ethanol be returned to its natural state for the enjoyment of those Alaskans who might choose
31 to travel to these areas and for the benefit of the environment.

1 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
2 of the United States; the Honorable Spencer Abraham, United States Secretary of Energy; the
3 Honorable Thad Cochran, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and
4 Forestry; the Honorable Pete Domenici, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural
5 Resources; the Honorable James Inhofe, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and
6 Public Works; the Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Chair, U.S. House Committee on Agriculture;
7 the Honorable W. J. "Billy" Tauzin, Chair, U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce;
8 the Honorable Richard Pombo, Chair, U.S. House Committee on Resources; the Honorable
9 Barbara Boxer and the Honorable Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senators from California; the
10 Honorable Bob Graham and the Honorable Bill Nelson, U.S. Senators from Florida; the
11 Honorable Richard Durbin and the Honorable Peter Fitzgerald, U.S. Senators from Illinois;
12 the Honorable Carl Levin and the Honorable Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Senators from Michigan;
13 the Honorable Norm Coleman and the Honorable Mark Dayton, U.S. Senators from
14 Minnesota; the Honorable Kent Conrad and the Honorable Byron Dorgan, U.S. Senators from
15 North Dakota; the Honorable Tom Daschle and the Honorable Tim Johnson, U.S. Senators
16 from South Dakota; the Honorable Maria Cantwell and the Honorable Patty Murray, U.S.
17 Senators from Washington; and the Honorable Russell Feingold and the Honorable Herb
18 Kohl, U.S. Senators from Wisconsin; the Governors and Legislatures of the States of
19 California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington,
20 and Wisconsin; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S.
21 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
22 delegation in Congress.