

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9 am**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES LEDOUX, Gara, Gruenberg, Thomas, Guttenberg, Kerttula, Elkins, Gardner**

**SENATORS Elton, Ellis, Kookesh, Wagoner, Dyson, Gary Stevens**

**Amended: 4/19/05**

**Introduced: 2/14/05**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Urging the United States Congress to honor the process and judgment of the federal**  
2 **courts in the case of the Exxon Valdez disaster and to refrain from enacting legislation**  
3 **that would affect the outcome of the courts' resolution of the case.**

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

5 **WHEREAS**, in 1989, the Exxon Valdez oil tanker ran aground on Bligh Reef off the  
6 coast of Alaska, discharging more than 11 million gallons of toxic crude oil into Prince  
7 William Sound, and becoming what President George H. W. Bush called "the worst marine  
8 environmental disaster this nation has ever experienced"; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in September 1994, a unanimous jury of Alaskans found Exxon  
10 Corporation liable for the Exxon Valdez oil spill and awarded damages of \$5.3 billion to  
11 those injured by the spill, including punitive damages in the amount of \$5 billion; and

12 **WHEREAS**, nearly 15 years after the disaster, and more than ten years after the  
13 original jury verdict, the victims are still awaiting resolution of the litigation; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is currently reviewing the latest  
15 appeal of the damages order by Exxon Mobil Corporation and is expected to issue its decision

1    sometime later this year; and

2           **WHEREAS**, during consideration by the United States Congress of the Oil Pollution  
3 Act of 1990, Exxon Mobil Corporation sought an amendment that would have substantially  
4 reduced the punitive damages that it would have to pay for the Exxon Valdez oil spill;

5           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges that the  
6 United States Congress respect the judicial process and refrain from enacting any legislation  
7 that would reduce or delay payment of the punitive damages awarded to more than 32,000  
8 plaintiffs as a result of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill as finally determined by the federal  
9 courts.

10           **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President  
11 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States  
12 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bill Frist, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate;  
13 the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable  
14 Frank H. Murkowski, Governor of Alaska; and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable  
15 Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,  
16 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.