

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE KERTTULA

Introduced: 1/11/06

Referred: Transportation, Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Requesting the United States Senate to ratify Annex VI of the International Convention**
2 **for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution
5 from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 (commonly referred to as "MARPOL
6 73/78"), defines and sets standards for the regulation and prevention of exhaust emissions
7 from ships; and

8 **WHEREAS** Annex VI has been ratified by 15 nations representing over one-half of
9 the world's shipping tonnage and went into effect May 2005; and

10 **WHEREAS** Annex VI will attain the force of law in the United States only after the
11 United States Senate concurs in the treaty and the United States deposits its instrument of
12 ratification with the International Maritime Organization, a branch of the United Nations; and

13 **WHEREAS** the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has delayed
14 the ratification of Annex VI for several years; and

15 **WHEREAS** global shipping is projected to double or triple over the next 10 to 20
16 years, causing accelerated air pollution in port communities and coastal regions; and

1 **WHEREAS** air emissions from ships constitute a growing source of air pollution and
2 are becoming an even greater proportion of overall air emissions as other mobile and
3 stationary source emissions decline; and

4 **WHEREAS** diesel exhaust produced by marine engines is a probable carcinogen and
5 may cause asthma and other respiratory illnesses, and people in port communities experience
6 a higher risk of illness and premature death due to diesel exhaust from ships and port
7 operations; and

8 **WHEREAS** diesel engines on ocean-going vessels are operated without air pollution
9 controls and produce large volumes of deadly diesel exhaust; and

10 **WHEREAS** Annex VI includes a provision for signatory states to petition the
11 International Maritime Organization to designate areas within their jurisdictions as a Sulphur
12 Emission Control Area for which a specified cap on sulphur levels in marine fuels for sale or
13 combustion can be stipulated, as has been done in the Baltic and North Seas; and

14 **WHEREAS** the United States Environmental Protection Agency has stated its intent
15 to pursue, in cooperation with Canada and Mexico, a North America Sulphur Emission
16 Control Area and is in the process of collecting the data necessary to support a petition to the
17 International Maritime Organization; and

18 **WHEREAS** the reduction of sulphur content in fuel also includes corresponding
19 reductions in emissions of oxides of sulphur and diesel particulate matter; and

20 **WHEREAS** these reductions promote direct and indirect environmental and public
21 health benefits;

22 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the United States
23 Senate to ratify Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution
24 from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978.

25 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
26 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States
27 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House
28 of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of
29 Representatives; the Honorable Bill Frist, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable
30 Harry Reid, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Richard G. Lugar, Chairman
31 of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.,

1 Ranking Minority Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; the
2 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
3 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and, by
4 electronic transmission, all other members of the 109th United States Congress.