

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES OLSON, Chenault, Johnson, Gatto, Ramras, Neuman, Thomas, Hawker, Coghill, Muñoz, Peggy Wilson, Fairclough, Lynn, Millett

Introduced: 4/13/09

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging immediate action by the governor, the Alaska Congressional delegation, and**
2 **state and federal agencies to assist in the restart of oil production in Cook Inlet that was**
3 **affected by the eruption of Mt. Redoubt.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** a period of increased volcanic activity began at Mt. Redoubt on
6 March 22, 2009; and

7 **WHEREAS** the proximity of Mt. Redoubt to state population centers, airports, and oil
8 production facilities makes the recent volcanic eruptions particularly threatening to Alaskans;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS** the eruption cycle that began on March 22, 2009, resulted in massive
11 snow and glacial melt in the Drift River Valley, leading to the flooding of the Drift River; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Drift River oil storage and transfer facility is located in the floodplain
13 of the river and in the path of flooding caused by lahars; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in an effort to avert a potential oil discharge into Cook Inlet, the Drift
15 River terminal was shut down, and the oil in its storage tanks was drawn down; and

1 **WHEREAS**, because of the complexity of crude oil production in Cook Inlet, the
2 length of time production wells are shut down adversely affects the ability to return to normal
3 production levels; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Drift River terminal, as a crucial waypoint in the delivery of oil
5 produced from Cook Inlet platforms, is integral to the operation of the Trading Bay and
6 Granite Point facilities, the Tesoro refinery in Nikiski, and future oil and gas development and
7 production in the Cook Inlet; and

8 **WHEREAS** the shutdown of the Drift River facility disrupts oil production on Cook
9 Inlet platforms and adversely affects the operation of oil and gas facilities throughout the
10 Cook Inlet basin; and

11 **WHEREAS** the oil services industries on which these platforms and facilities depend
12 have been forced to curtail production and lay off workers as a result of the closure of the
13 Drift River terminal; and

14 **WHEREAS** a prolonged closure of the terminal threatens to cripple the regional
15 economy, with a decline in oil and gas production, potential price increases, and layoffs in the
16 oil and gas sector and the industries that support it;

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges immediate action by the
18 governor, the Alaska Congressional delegation, and state and federal agencies to assist in the
19 restart of oil production in Cook Inlet that was affected by the eruption of Mt. Redoubt.

20 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
21 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
22 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ken Salazar, United States Secretary of the
23 Interior; the Honorable Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection
24 Agency; Admiral Arthur E. Brooks, Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District; the
25 Honorable Tom Irwin, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources; the Honorable Larry
26 Hartig, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation; and the Honorable Lisa
27 Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
28 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.