

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 49

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to enact S.J. Res. 26, a resolution disapproving the**
2 **Environmental Protection Agency's imposition of climate regulations that would harm**
3 **Alaska's economy and the livelihoods of the state's citizens.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** the President of the United States and members of the President's party in
6 the United States Congress are seeking to enact far-reaching climate legislation in order to
7 force reductions in domestic greenhouse gas emissions; and

8 **WHEREAS** the United States House of Representatives has passed H.R. 2454, the
9 American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, and the United States Senate is waiting to
10 consider S. 1733, the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act; and

11 **WHEREAS** both H.R. 2454 and S. 1733 will result in unnecessary regulation and
12 economic interference by the federal government, hindering the nation's free market
13 economy, increasing federal involvement in business, and mandating state oversight; and

14 **WHEREAS** Congressional support for H.R. 2454 and S. 1733 has weakened because
15 of widespread concerns over economic cost, environmental effectiveness, and the intensely

1 partisan process surrounding their development; and

2 **WHEREAS** efforts of the United States Congress to develop a more responsible
3 policy continue, but the Environmental Protection Agency is seeking to circumvent the
4 Congress and the people of the United States by pursuing an unprecedented expansion of the
5 Clean Air Act; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Environmental Protection Agency, having recently issued an
7 "endangerment finding" for six greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide, is now on the
8 verge of issuing economy-wide command-and-control regulations to force reductions in
9 greenhouse gas emissions; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that up to 6,000,000
11 American businesses, facilities, farms, and other greenhouse gas emitters will fall under the
12 new climate regulations, as opposed to the 15,000 emitters who are currently regulated; and

13 **WHEREAS** the proposed climate regulations would subject a massive number of
14 persons to an extremely expensive, time-intensive process that would require new permits to
15 be obtained and new equipment and technologies to be installed; and

16 **WHEREAS** the administrative responsibilities associated with the proposed climate
17 regulations would overwhelm state and local agencies, which already struggle to complete
18 their work because of budget constraints, leading to unacceptable delays or rejections of new
19 job-creating projects that would stimulate the economy; and

20 **WHEREAS** the consequences of the proposed climate regulations would be higher
21 energy prices, higher food prices, fewer jobs, and reduced production of domestic oil, natural
22 gas, and coal; and

23 **WHEREAS** the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed "tailoring rule" does
24 not make the proposed climate regulations any more tenable because of state and local Clean
25 Air Act requirements and the likelihood that the rule would not withstand the numerous legal
26 challenges being prepared; and

27 **WHEREAS** the Clean Air Act was not designed to regulate greenhouse gas
28 emissions, and the economic consequences of the proposed climate regulations would be felt
29 nationwide and would be particularly harmful in Alaska; and

30 **WHEREAS**, because the Clean Air Act does not account for Alaska's unique
31 circumstances, including population, physical size, geographic location, and arctic climate,

1 the proposed climate regulations would uniquely disadvantage the state; and

2 **WHEREAS** the proposed climate regulations will have both predictable and
3 unforeseen negative effects on the state's economy and citizens; and

4 **WHEREAS** the state's economy is reliant on the responsible development of the
5 state's abundant natural resources, which is, at present, relatively unburdened by regulations
6 that are not specific to Alaska's market and industrial character; and

7 **WHEREAS** the state is a major exporter of carbon-based energy and receives more
8 than 80 percent of its unrestricted general fund revenue directly from oil and gas operations,
9 producing approximately 13 percent of the nation's oil supply; and

10 **WHEREAS** Alaska's refineries, which are essential to the state's economy and cold
11 weather fuel needs, are uniquely vulnerable to the increased costs that would result from the
12 proposed climate regulations; and

13 **WHEREAS** the detrimental effect that the proposed climate regulations would have
14 on Alaska's refineries and North Slope oil production would also affect the Trans Alaska
15 Pipeline System, which transports hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil to American
16 markets each day and provides revenue needed for the state budget; and

17 **WHEREAS** the prospects for the construction of an Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline with
18 the capacity to supply affordable and clean energy to the state and the nation as a whole
19 would be severely affected on both developmental and delivery levels by the proposed climate
20 regulations; and

21 **WHEREAS** large fish processors, mines, hotels, hospitals, and dozens of other
22 facilities in the state would be subject to the proposed climate regulations, threatening
23 important state economic engines and Alaskans' ability to obtain access to and afford many
24 essential services; and

25 **WHEREAS** the proposed climate regulations will be detrimental to the state's
26 economy and workers, stifling economic development and potentially causing enormous job
27 losses; and

28 **WHEREAS** natural resource development in the state, including refinery operations,
29 existing infrastructure, and proposed projects, will be negatively affected by the
30 Environmental Protection Agency's proposed use of the Clean Air Act to limit carbon dioxide
31 and greenhouse gas emissions;

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
2 Congress to enact S.J. Res. 26, a bipartisan resolution of disapproval offered by Senator Lisa
3 Murkowski of Alaska, which would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency's
4 endangerment finding from having any force or effect, and thereby prevent the agency from
5 imposing economically harmful climate regulations that would negatively affect Alaska's
6 economy and the livelihoods of Alaskans through the elimination of jobs and increased costs
7 for goods and services; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports responsible
9 measures developed by the United States Congress, not by unelected federal bureaucrats, that
10 encourage investments in technology to reduce carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions.

11 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
12 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
13 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of
14 Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; and the
15 Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the
16 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.