

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 49(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/10/10

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES STOLTZE, Chenault, Gatto, Keller, Muñoz, Neuman, Hawker, Millett, Johnson, Ramras, Peggy Wilson, Tammie Wilson, Olson, Kelly, Dahlstrom, Johansen

SENATORS McGuire, Menard, Huggins, Wagoner

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 United States
6 Congress are seeking to enact far-reaching climate legislation in order to force reductions in
7 domestic greenhouse gas emissions; and

8 **WHEREAS** Congressional support for H.R. 2454 and S. 1733 has weakened because
9 of widespread concerns over economic cost, environmental effectiveness, and the intensely
10 partisan process surrounding their development; and

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

15 **WHEREAS** the Environmental Protection Agency, having recently issued an

1 "endangerment finding" for six greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide, is now on the
2 verge of issuing economy-wide command-and-control regulations to force reductions in
3 greenhouse gas emissions; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 **WHEREAS**, because the Clean Air Act does not account for Alaska's unique
25 circumstances, including population, physical size, geographic location, and arctic climate,
26 the proposed climate regulations would uniquely disadvantage the state; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
27 Congress to enact S.J. Res. 26, a bipartisan resolution of disapproval offered by Senator Lisa
28 Murkowski of Alaska, which would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency's
29 endangerment finding from having any force or effect, and thereby prevent the agency from
30 imposing economically harmful climate regulations that would negatively affect Alaska's
31 economy and the livelihoods of Alaskans through the elimination of jobs and increased costs

1 for goods and services; and be it

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

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