

CS FOR HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 17(RLS)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/14/10

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Department of Energy to expeditiously approve a two-year**
2 **extension of the export license for the Kenai liquefied natural gas plant.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

4 **WHEREAS** the Kenai liquefied natural gas plant has been operating safely and
5 efficiently for more than 40 years and is currently the only significant industrial user of
6 natural gas in Southcentral Alaska; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Kenai liquefied natural gas plant received a two-year extension of its
8 export license in March 2009, and the license will expire in March 2011; and

9 **WHEREAS** the Kenai liquefied natural gas plant is a significant economic engine for
10 the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the City of Kenai, generating approximately \$130,000,000
11 in economic benefits to the combined state and local economy each year; and

12 **WHEREAS** the approximately 60 jobs that the Kenai liquefied natural gas facility
13 supports directly and the approximately 50 jobs it supports indirectly generate approximately
14 \$17,000,000 annually in personal income; and

15 **WHEREAS** the production of gas for transportation to the Kenai liquefied natural gas
16 facility or for feedstock and the sale of Kenai liquefied natural gas together generate

1 approximately \$60,000,000 in royalties and taxes for the state and the Kenai Peninsula
2 Borough; and

3 **WHEREAS**, by serving as a virtual storage facility, the Kenai liquefied natural gas
4 plant ensures a stable supply of gas for Southcentral Alaska by backing up gas supplies for
5 local utilities during periods of peak demand on cold days or when disruptions occur in the
6 gas supply system; and

7 **WHEREAS**, while additional storage options are being investigated, encouraged, and
8 pursued, to date, no practical source of backup gas other than the Kenai liquefied natural gas
9 plant exists; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Kenai liquefied natural gas plant helps drive investment in
11 development of natural resources in the state; and

12 **WHEREAS** resources developed for the Kenai liquefied natural gas plant can and
13 will be used during the life of the Kenai liquefied natural gas plant and may continue to be
14 used to meet local demand, even if exports are discontinued in the future; and

15 **WHEREAS** maintaining natural gas demand is vital to the economics of gas
16 exploration and development in the state; and

17 **WHEREAS** maintaining the infrastructure of the Kenai liquefied natural gas plant
18 will preserve the option to use the plant in the future to help meet the natural gas demands of
19 Southcentral Alaska; and

20 **WHEREAS** the supply of deliverable gas exceeds local market demand, and, if this
21 excess gas is not exported, it may become shut-in, causing reserves to diminish and further
22 jeopardizing the ability of liquefied natural gas producers to meet peak winter demands; and

23 **WHEREAS** the Department of Natural Resources, on March 15, 2010, declared its
24 commitment, under the terms of a 2005 settlement agreement, accepted by the Regulatory
25 Commission of Alaska in order P-04-20(16)/U-05-20(13), on January 26, 2007, to work with
26 the Kenai liquefied natural gas plant owners, stating that the department recognizes the
27 importance of the Kenai liquefied natural gas export facility to the market and economy of the
28 Cook Inlet region and expressing the department's desire that the facility stay in operation;

29 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives supports a two-year extension
30 of the Kenai liquefied natural gas export license; and be it

31 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives urges the United States

1 Department of Energy to expeditiously approve a two-year extension of the Kenai liquefied
2 natural gas export license.

3 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Steven Chu, United States
4 Secretary of Energy; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich,
5 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
6 delegation in Congress.