

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 5

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES HERRON, Johnson, Edgmon, Hawker, Millett, Holmes, Peggy Wilson, Austerman, Josephson, Hughes, Saddler, Lynn, Thompson, Feige, Gara, Costello, Higgins, Pruitt

Introduced: 1/30/13

Referred: Special Order of Business

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting full state participation alongside federal officials in the United States**
2 **Department of the Interior's "Expedited Assessment of 2012 Arctic Operations."**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the economic future of the state and the energy security and strategic
5 global position of the nation stand to benefit greatly from development of the state's outer
6 continental shelf; and

7 **WHEREAS** Shell Oil Company's exploration activities in the Arctic have faced
8 technical setbacks not directly related to drilling, including the recent grounding of the Kulluk
9 rig, that are still being resolved and that are the subject of multiple investigations; and

10 **WHEREAS** those recent events should be looked on as valuable learning moments
11 from which to determine how better to improve safety during future development; and

12 **WHEREAS** hundreds of exploration and development wells have been safely and
13 responsibly drilled in state and federal water off the coast of the state, including in the
14 Beaufort and Chukchi Seas; and

15 **WHEREAS** development of the state's outer continental shelf is a well-understood
16 undertaking, and Alaskans have the benefit of over half a century's experience in managing

1 Arctic development; and

2 **WHEREAS** the United States Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, in January 2013,
3 directed the United States Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
4 to undertake an "Expedited Assessment of 2012 Arctic Operations" to identify lessons to be
5 learned from the challenges of the past year and to determine means of improving operational
6 security in the future; and

7 **WHEREAS** the results of the "Expedited Assessment of 2012 Arctic Operations"
8 stand to affect significantly the economic future of the state; and

9 **WHEREAS** residents of the state have the utmost respect for the unequalled
10 experience of the United States Coast Guard in protecting Alaska's mariners and marine
11 environment, and the House of Representatives anticipates that the Bureau of Ocean Energy
12 Management panel will benefit from participation by the United States Coast Guard; and

13 **WHEREAS** public servants of the state charged with regulation of development in the
14 marine environment possess world-renowned expertise; and

15 **WHEREAS** the state is committed to safe and responsible development of energy
16 resources in the Arctic; and

17 **WHEREAS** the local knowledge, expertise, and passion that state residents hold for
18 the state is indispensable and should be brought to bear on all decision-making processes
19 affecting the state; and

20 **WHEREAS** it is unacceptable for final decisions on Arctic matters to be dictated to
21 the state by the federal government, and the state must be a full partner in all decisions
22 relating to Arctic development; and

23 **WHEREAS** the current plan for the "Expedited Assessment of 2012 Arctic
24 Operations" undertaken by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is for an internal review
25 that will include interviewing and taking input from various stakeholders of the state, but will
26 not give the state any direct voice in the content of the review;

27 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives requests that the state and the
28 residents of the state be allowed to participate in all federal decision-making processes that
29 concern the interests and well-being of residents of the state, including those related to Arctic
30 and outer continental shelf development; and be it

31 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives requests that, rather than

1 state experts merely being interviewed as part of the "Expedited Assessment of 2012 Arctic
2 Operations" undertaken by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, a panel of state experts
3 be established and allowed to participate fully in the review alongside federal officials.

4 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ken Salazar, United States
5 Secretary of the Interior; Tommy Beaudreau, director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy
6 Management, United States Department of the Interior; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski
7 and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
8 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.