

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 95

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to discontinuance of the
6 federal policy allowing the pumping
7 of ballast on the high seas.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 WHEREAS it is becoming increasingly evident that man, if he continues
10 his present course of action, will not only pollute the air, streams and
11 lakes but also the oceans of the world; and

12 WHEREAS the tragic episodes resulting recently from oil spills in the
13 waters of other states and nations make it painfully clear that if man and
14 his environment are to survive the utmost care must be employed when explor-
15 ing for, extracting and transporting oil; and

16 WHEREAS Kodiak, Alaska has just suffered a major disaster because an
17 oil slick caused by the pumping of oily ballast at sea has reportedly
18 covered an estimated 1,000 miles of beach and killed a minimum of 10,000 sea
19 birds; and

20 WHEREAS the tragic situation which now exists at Kodiak is a mere
21 preview of what may happen in the future if proper safeguards are not estab-
22 lished and followed in the transporting of oil; and

23 WHEREAS the present federal regulation allowing the pumping of ballast
24 by oil tankers 50 miles from shore is totally inadequate to protect the
25 shores and wildlife of the state; and

26 WHEREAS, because Alaska's waterlanes will be utilized to a great extent
27 in future years to transport oil to west coast ports, strong precautions
28 against oil spilling must be initiated now; and

29 WHEREAS the United States should be a world leader in establishing and

1 enforcing proper safeguards to prevent future oil pollution of the world's seas;

2 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Legislature respectfully requests that
3 the federal government take immediate steps to stop tankers from emptying
4 their ballast anywhere on the high seas; and be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED that the U. S. Coast Guard take the necessary steps
6 to provide adequate visual and instrumented surveillance of tanker operations
7 on the waters adjacent to Alaska.

8 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Walter J.
9 Hickel, Secretary, Department of the Interior; the Honorable John A. Volpe,
10 Secretary, Department of Transportation; the Honorable John Harllee, Chairman
11 Federal Maritime Commission; Admiral Willard J. Smith, Commandant, U. S.
12 Coast Guard; Rear Admiral Robert E. Hammond, Commander, 17th Coast Guard
13 District; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel,
14 U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative,
15 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.
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