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Referred: Resources

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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 an international conference  
6 on oil pollution of the North Pacific,  
7 and to the discontinuance of the federal  
8 policy allowing the pumping of ballast  
9 on the high seas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, because Alaska's waterlanes will be utilized to a great extent  
29 in future years to transport oil to west coast ports, strong precautions

1 against oil spilling must be initiated now; and

2 WHEREAS the United States should be a world leader in establishing and  
3 enforcing proper safeguards to prevent future oil pollution of the world's  
4 seas;

5 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Legislature respectfully urges the  
6 governments of Canada and the United States to convene an international  
7 conference on North Pacific marine oil pollution, and to consider estab-  
8 lishment of a permanent joint task force to provide coordination and leader-  
9 ship in all aspects of oil pollution prevention and abatement in this  
10 region; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Legislature respectfully requests that  
12 the federal government take immediate steps to stop tankers from emptying  
13 their ballast anywhere on the high seas; and be it

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

17 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Walter J.  
18 Hickel, Secretary, Department of the Interior; the Honorable John A. Volpe,  
19 Secretary, Department of Transportation; the Honorable John Harllee, Chairman,  
20 Federal Maritime Commission; Admiral Willard J. Smith, Commandant, U.S.  
21 Coast Guard; Rear Admiral Robert E. Hammond, Commander, 17th Coast Guard  
22 District; the Honorable Pierre Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (in Ottawa);  
23 the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States; and to the  
24 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and  
25 the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U.S. Representative, members of the  
26 Alaska delegation in Congress.