

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 95

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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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 oily
9 ballast on the high seas.

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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