

Introduced: 3/9/71  
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY SWANSON AND REED

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 49

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to Canadian transportation  
6 of certain substances through  
7 Alaskan waters.

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

9 WHEREAS in recent days various members of the Canadian Parliament have  
10 issued statements of protest regarding the transport of Alaskan oil via  
11 tanker from Valdez to the Puget Sound area; and

12 WHEREAS all Alaskans are equally concerned about any damage that  
13 might occur as the result of any shipping accident and the state has made  
14 it clear that all safeguards humanly possible will be employed in regard  
15 to the use of tankers carrying our oil; and

16 WHEREAS Canada itself, each and every month, has at least six carriers  
17 plying the inland passage to Skagway, all of which carry oil and oil  
18 products; and

19 WHEREAS a minimum of 45,000 tons of ore is being shipped from Skagway  
20 on Canadian carriers each month, the ore consisting of lead, zinc, concen-  
21 trates, asbestos and copper; and

22 WHEREAS some of the Canadian ships currently in service from Vancouver  
23 to Skagway are some of the oldest ships still used on a regular basis; and

24 WHEREAS if an accident should occur for whatever reason, Alaskan waters,  
25 including some of the world's finest salmon and halibut waters, would be  
26 in grave danger of being contaminated or destroyed by oil or ore cargos; and

27 WHEREAS, in addition the Canadians are currently shipping on a regular  
28 basis oil by tanker cars on the White Pass and Yukon Railroad and also by  
29 pipeline out of Skagway; and

1           WHEREAS the pipeline was not built to current safety standards and  
2 a pipeline rupture or tanker car spill could contaminate our land and our  
3 spawning streams;

4           BE IT RESOLVED by the Seventh Alaska State Legislature that the  
5 federal government undertake an immediate study of needed safeguards to  
6 adequately protect Alaskan waters and land from damage that could result  
7 from our current stance of letting the Canadians transport oil and ore over  
8 our land and through our waters and to make recommendations as to any action  
9 that may be necessary to ensure our waters and land are safe from pollution  
10 of every sort.

11           COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.  
12 Nixon, President of the United States, the Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton,  
13 Secretary, Department of the Interior; all members of the Canadian Parliament;  
14 all members of the British Columbia Parliament; and to the Honorable Ted  
15 Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable  
16 Nick Begich, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in  
17 Congress.  
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