

Introduced: 3/27/72
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 66 *am H*

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the permanent assignment
6 of additional Coast Guard patrol
7 vessels in Alaska.

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

9 WHEREAS traditional American and especially Alaskan fisheries are
10 increasingly being taken over by sophisticated foreign fishing fleets; and

11 WHEREAS currently there are neither adequate numbers of Coast Guard
12 personnel nor any modern Coast Guard ships stationed in Alaska equipped with
13 the latest electronic gear that have the maneuverability necessary to ade-
14 quately and continuously patrol Alaska's some 31,383 statute miles of tidal
15 shoreline; and

16 WHEREAS the Coast Guard does have ships with the capacity to improve
17 greatly its surveillance activities in Alaskan waters, as is evidenced by the
18 temporary assignment of the "Mellon", a class of vessel uniquely designed for
19 more adequate protection of our fisheries; and

20 WHEREAS the "Mellon" has been assigned to temporary duty in Alaskan
21 waters, but will shortly be forced to return to its home base; and

22 WHEREAS, unless more adequate equipment and personnel are assigned on a
23 permanent basis to duty in Alaska, the detrimental economic impact will be
24 felt not only in maritime states, but eventually throughout the nation; and

25 WHEREAS, unless increased protection of the traditional Alaskan fisheries
26 is immediately forthcoming, the economic impact on Alaska will be particularly
27 devastating;

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that it commends the U. S.
29 Coast Guard for its foresight in designing ships of the secretary class and

1 in particular for assigning the secretary to temporary duty in Alaskan
2 waters; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Coast Guard is urgently requested to
4 assign one or ore ships of the "Mellon" class to duty in Alaska on a per-
5 manent basis, the only means by which our fisheries may receive increased
6 protection from foreign encroachment.

7 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.
8 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable John A. Volpe, Secretary,
9 Department of Transportation; Admiral Chester R. Bender, Commandant, United
10 States Coast Guard; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike
11 Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich, U.S. Representative,
12 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.