

Introduced: 1/23/73
Referred: Resources and
Judiciary

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BARBER AND
ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Requesting the Department of the
6 Interior not to appeal the United
7 States District Court, District of
8 Alaska, decision regarding possession
9 of the lower Cook Inlet submerged
10 lands.

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

12 WHEREAS last year the State of Alaska won a favorable ruling in the
13 United States District Court, District of Alaska, on the state's claim of
14 ownership and possession of the oil-rich lands lying under lower Cook Inlet;
15 and

16 WHEREAS an appeal of that decision by the United States Department of
17 the Interior would place the State of Alaska in grave financial jeopardy
18 because the state would lose royalties, tax revenues and bonus bid income
19 from the lands while litigation dragged on over a period of years; and

20 WHEREAS the trans-Alaska pipeline, on which the state has been relying
21 to generate much needed economic benefits and which is needed by the country
22 as a whole to meet its energy needs, appears to be four or five years away
23 from operation; and

24 WHEREAS the time-consuming appeals through the federal courts on the
25 Cook Inlet decision, coupled with the status of the pipeline, will result in
26 a hiatus of economic insecurity in Alaska and an energy shortage in the
27 nation; and

28 WHEREAS, in light of the acute energy crisis currently plaguing the
29 United States, and which by all indications will continue, it does not make

1 sense to tie up the potential petroleum production of the lower Cook Inlet
2 for a long period of time in a costly appeal which the federal government
3 may well lose in the end;

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Eighth Alaska Legislature that the United States
5 Department of the Interior is respectfully requested and urged not to appeal
6 the decision of the United States District Court, District of Alaska,
7 granting possession of the submerged lands in lower Cook Inlet to the
8 State of Alaska.

9 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Rogers C. B.
10 Morton, Secretary of the Interior; to the Honorable Richard G. Kleindienst,
11 U. S. Attorney General; to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for
12 Mineral Resources in the Department of the Interior; to the Director,
13 Office of Oil and Gas in the Department of the Interior; and to the
14 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators,
15 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.