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1 IN THE HOUSE

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2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29 *ams*

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to federal leasing of the Alaska
6 outer continental shelf for oil and gas.

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

8 WHEREAS the National Academy of Sciences and the U. S. Environmental
9 Protection Agency have urged that no offshore oil development be permitted in
10 the Gulf of Alaska outer continental shelf at this time, and the President's
11 Council on Environmental Quality has concluded that the Northeastern Gulf of
12 Alaska presents the greatest risks to offshore oil drilling of any area of the
13 nation; and

14 WHEREAS the federal government concedes that major oil spills will occur
15 in the Gulf of Alaska, that there is high probability of these spills reaching
16 Alaska's shoreline, and the oil spill containment and cleanup technology is
17 insufficient to meet Gulf of Alaska conditions; and

18 WHEREAS intentional oil discharges from offshore platforms and related
19 shipping activity will cause chronic pollution levels which may have drastic
20 adverse effects on Alaska's infinitely rich and varied marine life; and

21 WHEREAS the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the
22 President's Council on Environmental Quality have stressed the lack of
23 available knowledge on Alaskan outer continental shelf regions, and the
24 impact of outer continental shelf development activity upon the Alaskan
25 coastal ecology; and

26 WHEREAS outer continental shelf development will cause significant
27 industrialization of the Alaskan coastline, cause great fiscal burdens upon
28 the affected communities and the state, and seriously threaten the continued
29 existence of traditional coastal industries; and

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1 WHEREAS the State of Alaska estimates that the population of Alaska's
2 coastal zone may increase by as much as 400,000 as a result of rapid outer
3 continental shelf development throughout the state, imposing net yearly costs
4 to the state of over \$390 million; and

5 WHEREAS the United States Department of the Interior appears committed
6 to a program of massive outer continental shelf leasing during the Fall of
7 1975 throughout Alaska, despite the warnings of other federal agencies and
8 the great concerns heretofore voiced by the state, and despite a projected oil
9 surplus in the Western United States without Alaskan outer continental shelf
10 oil; and

11 WHEREAS a more reasonable time frame is necessary to approach the
12 environmental and economic problems with intelligence and judgment;

13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the United States
14 Department of the Interior is urgently requested to reappraise its program of
15 precipitous development of the Alaska outer continental shelf, and that no
16 outer continental shelf oil or gas leases be granted in any Alaska outer
17 continental shelf region until:

18 (1) full compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act,
19 all necessary environmental and special studies, including studies on the
20 socio-economic impact of outer continental shelf development are completed
21 and analyzed, and their findings fully and fairly weighed against the possible
22 benefits of Alaska outer continental shelf leasing;

23 (2) substantial practical experience has been gained in areas in
24 which environmental risks are less, and regional oil demands are greater;

25 (3) advances in technology have significantly lowered the
26 currently immense risks of Alaska outer continental shelf development;

27 (4) the State of Alaska has established an effective and compre-
28 hensive coastal zone management program to cushion and channel inevitable
29 onshore impacts for the good of all the state;

1 (5) congress has provided for a full and fair sharing of revenues
2 generated by outer continental shelf leasing, so that the states may recoup
3 the economic losses which outer continental shelf-related development will
4 cause;

5 (6) criteria are developed for the exclusion from oil development
6 of those outer continental shelf regions possessing significant renewable
7 resource potential which might be compromised by intensive oil development;
8 and

9 (7) congress has provided for an equal state role in outer conti-
10 nental shelf leasing management, regulation and supervision.

11 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Gerald R. Ford,
12 President of the United States; the Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary,
13 Department of the Interior; the Honorable Curtis Berklund, Director, Bureau
14 of Land Management; the Honorable Henry M. Jackson, Chairman, Senate
15 Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; the Honorable Warren G. Magnuson,
16 Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee; the Honorable James A. Haley, Chairman,
17 House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, the Honorable Harley O. Staggers,
18 Chairman, House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee; and the Honorable
19 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable
20 Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in congress.
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