

Introduced: 3/8/77
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY SPECKING AND MALONE

2 CS HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to federal oil spill liability
6 legislation.

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

8 WHEREAS the United States House of Representatives is presently consider-
9 ing comprehensive oil spill liability legislation which includes a provision
10 for preempting state oil spill liability laws; and

11 WHEREAS Alaska recognizes the great need for comprehensive federal
12 legislation in this critical area to replace the presently inadequate and
13 incomplete liability provisions of present federal law; and

14 WHEREAS oil spill liability law is an essential means for states to
15 encourage safe oil tanker operation, especially considering the great prepon-
16 derance of oil spills which are caused by human error; and

17 WHEREAS Alaska's oil spill liability law provides unique incentives for
18 safe tanker operation; and

19 WHEREAS a limitation on oil spill removal liability as proposed in
20 H.R. 776 is an arbitrary limit which may not cover the cleanup costs of
21 accidents resulting from present petroleum operations in Alaska nor the pro-
22 bable future petroleum operations in offshore, ice-covered regions; and

23 WHEREAS Alaska's greatest resource wealth is her renewable resources;
24 and

25 WHEREAS these renewable resources should be protected to the greatest
26 degree possible from potential damage from nonrenewable resource development;

27 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
28 that the Congress of the United States not preempt the several states from
29 maintaining oil spill liability law which encourages safe petroleum

1 operations; and be it

2 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the U. S.
3 Congress to allow the test of time to determine whether state liability
4 legislation is indeed a complementary component to federal comprehensive oil
5 spill liability law.

6 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable John M. Murphy,
7 Chairman of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; and to the
8 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the
9 Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
10 in Congress.