

Introduced: 5/12/77
Referred: Commerce

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41 am

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the use of coal as fuel at
6 Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force
7 Base.

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

9 WHEREAS the severe winter experienced by much of the United States was
10 accompanied by an increased demand for natural gas, which is used for cooking
11 and residential heating by many citizens as well as being utilized in many
12 ways by the petrochemical industry; and

13 WHEREAS natural gas is a premium fuel for residential use and a unique
14 resource for petrochemical feedstock; and

15 WHEREAS most experts believe that the current reserves of natural gas
16 are at a critical level, and that conservation measures must begin now; and

17 WHEREAS the technology for the clean burning of fossil fuels other than
18 natural gas by large industrial power and space heating consumers is avail-
19 able; and

20 WHEREAS within Alaska two major military installations, Fort Richardson
21 and Elmendorf Air Force Base, once burned coal for fuel but were converted to
22 use natural gas; and

23 WHEREAS Fort Richardson's annual consumption of natural gas amounts to
24 100,000 tons of standard fuel and Elmendorf Air Force Base's consumption is
25 at least as much; and

26 WHEREAS reopening of the Matanuska coal field will create new employment
27 with no offsetting loss of gas field employment; and

28 WHEREAS it would be in keeping with the national policy of energy con-
29 servation recently announced by the President for these major military

1 installations in Alaska to lead the movement by reconverting from natural gas
2 usage to coal;

3 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
4 the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Air Force to take whatever
5 action is appropriate to insure that Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force
6 Base are reconverted to use coal as fuel before the next winter season.

7 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter,
8 President of the United States; the Honorable James R. Schlesinger, Chairman
9 Energy Resources Council and Assistant to the President; the Honorable Clifford
10 L. Alexander, Secretary of the Army; the Honorable John Stetson, Secretary of
11 the Air Force; General James Boatner, Commanding General, Fort Richardson;
12 Lieutenant General M. L. Boswell, Commander, Alaska Air Command, Elmendorf
13 Air Force Base; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike
14 Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
15 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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