

Introduced: 5/24/78
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 80

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the amendment of the Trans-
6 Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act (P.L.
7 93-153).

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

9 WHEREAS a major oil spill in the coastal waters of Alaska will result
10 in severe damage to our marine fisheries and shorelines, adversely affecting
11 the Alaska economy and environment; and

12 WHEREAS both the United States and the State of Alaska have enacted laws
13 which provide strict liability for oil spills within their respective juris-
14 dictions; and

15 WHEREAS section 204(c)(7) of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization
16 Act (P.L. 93-153) limits the strict liability provisions of that Act to
17 vessels engaged in transportation between the terminal facilities of the
18 pipeline and ports under the jurisdiction of the United States; and

19 WHEREAS state and national officials are examining the possibilities of
20 exporting Alaska crude oil to Japan in an exchange designed to alleviate the
21 maldistribution of oil in the United States and to reduce our nation's trade
22 deficit; and

23 WHEREAS presidential approval of such an exchange without amending
24 section 207(c)(7) of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act would leave
25 the State of Alaska and other injured parties with woefully inadequate
26 mechanisms to recover damages if a major spill should occur when Alaska oil
27 is transported to Japan; and

28 WHEREAS there is no reason to believe that a spill of crude oil destined
29 for Japan would cause less damage to the marine resources and shoreline of

1 of Alaska than would crude oil destined for the United States;

2 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
3 the Congress of the United States to expeditiously enact an amendment to the
4 Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act (P.L. 93-153) which would extend the
5 strict liability provisions of that Act to any discharge of Alaskan oil with-
6 out regard to the destination of the shipment.

7 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Walter F.
8 Mondale, President of the U. S. Senate; the Honorable James O. Eastland,
9 President Pro Tempore of the U. S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill,
10 Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Henry M. Jackson,
11 Chairman of the U. S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the
12 Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman of the U. S. House Committee on Interior
13 and Insular Affairs; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel,
14 U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members
15 of the Alaska delegation in Congress.