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1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Requesting the U. S. Senate Committee on  
6 Commerce to hold a hearing in Alaska on  
7 oil tanker safety.

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

9 WHEREAS the initiation of North Slope oil production is expected to  
10 begin later this year; and

11 WHEREAS an oil tanker transportation system is an integral part of the  
12 Congressionally approved transportation system which will transport Alaska's  
13 North Slope oil from Prudhoe Bay to West Coast destinations, and oil tanker  
14 transport will be an integral part of any and all oil development upon  
15 Alaska's outer continental shelf; and

16 WHEREAS oil tankers servicing the trans-Alaska pipeline terminus will  
17 transit near the initial Alaska OCS lease area and some of these tankers are  
18 expected to approach 200,000 d.w.t.; and

19 WHEREAS the potential surplus of oil on the U.S. West Coast may result  
20 in Alaskan oil being rerouted to foreign destinations, and such foreign ship-  
21 ment would likely involve oil tankers registered in foreign countries; and

22 WHEREAS the several recent accidents in United States waters involving  
23 oil tankers which fly flags of convenience clearly demonstrates the potential  
24 danger of some foreign-registered oil tankers; and

25 WHEREAS, of all ocean industries, oil tankers have been demonstrated to  
26 be the single greatest source of oil pollution in the oceans, and several  
27 studies, including those accomplished by the Council on Environmental Quality,  
28 Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Land Management, and the State of  
29 Alaska's Pipeline Coordinator, demonstrate a high probability of both chronic

1 and acute oil pollution resulting from both transportation of North Slope oil  
2 and development of OCS regions of the North Gulf of Alaska; and

3 WHEREAS Alaska's Arctic environment would not easily recover from the  
4 impact of either one-time massive spills or continuous chronic pollution; and

5 WHEREAS Alaska's presently pristine waters support some of the major  
6 fisheries of the world and irreparable harm could be done to those fisheries  
7 by a catastrophic oil spill; and

8 WHEREAS several agencies and officials of both state and federal govern-  
9 ment are highly critical of present U.S. Coast Guard regulations governing  
10 design and operation of oil tankers as being outdated and ineffective; and

11 WHEREAS Senator Warren Magnuson, Chairman of the Senate Committee on  
12 Commerce, is presently conducting hearings on the issue of oil tanker safety;

13 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
14 that the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce consider holding a hearing in the  
15 State of Alaska during its present deliberations on oil tanker safety.

16 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Warren G.  
17 Magnuson, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce; and to the Honorable  
18 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable  
19 Don Young, U.S. Representative.