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Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 86

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Requesting the Department of Energy

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to review and revise gasoline con-

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sumption guidelines for Alaska.

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

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WHEREAS the federal Department of Energy recently announced gasoline

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consumption guidelines calling for a 17 percent reduction by Alaskans during

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April, May and June; and

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WHEREAS the proposed Alaska reduction is more than double the proposed

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national average reduction of 6.7 percent for the same period; and

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WHEREAS the amount of gasoline allocated per capita in Alaska is only

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one-third to three-fourths of that allocated to other states with comparative

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populations; and

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WHEREAS the federal government is asking the state with the smallest

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population to make the largest per capita reduction in its gasoline consump-

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tion; and

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WHEREAS the proposed guidelines can be used by President Carter under

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the Emergency Energy Conservation Act of 1979 to impose a mandatory rationing

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program; and

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WHEREAS the proposed consumption level for Alaska of 45.7 million gal-

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lons for April, May and June would reduce the state's annual gasoline con-

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sumption, if extended, to pre-1975 levels; and

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WHEREAS Alaskans consume much less than one percent of all of the gaso-

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line consumed in the United States, but produce a major supply of petroleum

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for the rest of the nation; and

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WHEREAS Alaska produces 1,600,000 barrels of oil every day; and

1           WHEREAS Alaska's oil production is about 19 percent of all the crude oil  
2 produced daily in the United States and 11 percent of the oil consumed daily  
3 by Americans; and

4           WHEREAS the proposed reduction ignores seasonal needs of Alaskans re-  
5 supplying fuel stocks which have been diminished during the winter, fishermen  
6 preparing the for season's work, and businesses focused on tourism, con-  
7 struction and other seasonal work which contribute much to Alaska's economy;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS the proposed reduction also ignores the vast distances in Alaska  
10 and between Alaskan communities; and

11           WHEREAS the federal government has not promptly aided Alaskans seeking  
12 improved mass transit systems for its urban areas; and

13           WHEREAS Alaskans have demonstrated their energy conservation efforts by  
14 already reducing their gasoline consumption by an estimated five percent this  
15 year;

16           BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Department of  
17 Energy is requested to recognize the inequity of asking Alaska to provide a  
18 major portion of the nation's energy while depriving Alaskans of sufficient  
19 fuel to maintain their economic well-being; and be it

20           FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Energy reconsider its drastic  
21 and unreasonable demand of Alaskans; and be it

22           FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Energy cease to penalize  
23 Alaskans for their earlier prudent and voluntary efforts to conserve energy;  
24 and be it

25           FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Energy recognize the seasonal  
26 nature of Alaskan's use of energy fuels, including gasoline, and the integral  
27 ties between that seasonal use and the state's economic well-being.

28           COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Charles W.  
29 Duncan, Secretary of Energy; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the

1 Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.  
2 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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