

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 53

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Supporting efforts by the governor to
6 revise the Outer Continental Shelf
7 oil and gas lease schedule proposed
8 by the Department of the Interior.

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

10 WHEREAS the Department of the Interior has issued a tentative proposed
11 final five-year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas lease schedule for
12 the period from July 1982 through June 1987; and

13 WHEREAS this lease schedule includes 16 sales in the following planning
14 areas: Diapir Field, Norton Basin, St. George Basin, North Aleutian Basin,
15 Navarin Basin, Barrow Arch, Hope Basin, Shumagin Basin, Cook Inlet, Kodiak,
16 and multiple sales in five of these areas; and

17 WHEREAS the state is involved in litigation with the Secretary of the
18 Interior over the previous proposed five-year schedule, California v. Watt,
19 because that schedule did not consider all of the requirements of the Outer
20 Continental Shelf Lands Leasing Act Amendments of 1978, including the impact
21 of the lease sales on the coastal zone and the importance of the lease areas
22 to other resource uses; and

23 WHEREAS the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has determined
24 that the previous proposed five-year OCS schedule violated the law; and

25 WHEREAS the revised schedule that was released on March 19, 1982, also
26 fails to meet certain requirements of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands
27 Leasing Act Amendments of 1978; and

28 WHEREAS the revised schedule does not consider the concerns of the state
29 in that it does not delete sales in the North Aleutian Basin and the St.

1 George Basin; does not delay sales in the Norton Basin to allow the comple-
2 tion of local coastal management programs and the development of exploration
3 and development technologies, transportation methods, and other measures to
4 mitigate potentially adverse effects of the sale; and does not indefinitely
5 postpone sales in the Barrow Arch and the offshore pack ice zone of the
6 Diapir Field until the development of more advanced technology for explora-
7 tion and development in arctic waters; and

8 WHEREAS the schedule does not properly balance the timing of the sales
9 in that it does not propose leasing first in the areas with the most oil and
10 gas resource potential and the least potential for adverse impact on the
11 coastal zone and the citizens of those coastal areas;

12 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the efforts of
13 the governor to take whatever action is necessary, including continued liti-
14 gation, to delete from the schedule the lease sales in the Bristol Bay region,
15 to delay until the latter part of the schedule the Norton Sound Basin lease
16 sales, and to indefinitely postpone the Barrow Arch lease sale and the off-
17 shore pack ice zone of the Diapir Field; and be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor seek congressional resolution of
19 problems that the state has with the Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas
20 lease sale and enlist the support of the Alaska delegation in Congress in
21 seeking changes in the five-year lease sale schedule;

22 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable James Watt,
23 Secretary of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
24 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representa-
25 tive, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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