

Introduced: 4/3/85  
Referred: House Special Committee on  
Oil and Gas and Resources

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AND GRUSSENDORF

1 IN THE HOUSE

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the North Aleutian Basin

6

Outer Continental Shelf lease sale.

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

8 WHEREAS the state fully supports the prudent and orderly development  
9 of the state's oil and gas reserves in an environmentally acceptable  
10 manner; and

11 WHEREAS the state has been responsive to the nation's need to decrease  
12 its dependence on foreign oil; and

13 WHEREAS there are presently 12 Alaskan planning areas on the Federal  
14 Outer Continental Shelf leasing schedule, encompassing over 500 million  
15 acres; and

16 WHEREAS the proposed North Aleutian Basin lease sale area has rela-  
17 tively low hydrocarbon potential; and

18 WHEREAS the proposed lease sale area is one of the world's greatest  
19 bird and marine mammal migratory corridors; and

20 WHEREAS over 1,000,000 marine mammals inhabit or migrate through the  
21 North Aleutian Basin area; and

22 WHEREAS virtually the entire world's population of black brant and  
23 emperor geese stage in nearby coastal areas during the fall migration; and

24 WHEREAS over 60,000,000 adult salmon return to Bristol Bay each year;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS domestic Bristol Bay fisheries have a wholesale value of  
27 \$250,000,000 and employ over 10,000 people annually; and

28 WHEREAS the Bristol Bay area coastal inhabitants and fish and wildlife  
29 resources are highly vulnerable to oil spill damage and disturbance; and

1       WHEREAS significant gaps exist in understanding the distribution,  
2 abundance, and population dynamics associated with these renewable  
3 resources; and

4       WHEREAS industry has not demonstrated its ability to contain and clean  
5 up oil spills under the extreme meteorological and oceanographic conditions  
6 common to Bristol Bay; and

7       WHEREAS the state has delayed oil and gas leasing in adjacent state  
8 waters until at least 1994; and

9       WHEREAS by delaying leasing in state and federal waters in the Bristol  
10 Bay area until 1994, the opportunity exists to develop additional technol-  
11 ogies that will protect fish and wildlife resources in the presence of oil  
12 and gas activities; and

13       WHEREAS a 10-year delay in the North Aleutian Basin lease sale has  
14 been requested by the Aleutians East Coastal Resource Service Area, Bristol  
15 Bay Coastal Resource Service Area, City of Point Heiden, City of Aleknagik,  
16 Egegik Village Council, Pedro Bay Village Council, Togiak City Council and  
17 the Governor of Alaska; and

18       WHEREAS it is not in the nation's or the state's best interest to sell  
19 leases in the North Aleutian Basin as scheduled in December 1985;

20       BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
21 the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior to delay  
22 until 1994 the North Aleutian Basin Outer Continental Shelf Lease Sale No.  
23 92 scheduled for December 1985; and be it

24       FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully requests that  
25 Bristol Bay be the last area of Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf to be  
26 opened to leasing.

27       COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald  
28 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush,  
29 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to

1 the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Repre-  
2 sentatives; to the Honorable Donald Hodel, Secretary of the Interior; and  
3 Mr. William Bettenberg, director, Minerals Management Service; and to the  
4 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and  
5 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-  
6 tion in Congress.