

Introduced: 5/12/85  
Referred: State Affairs

BY SUND, SZYMANSKI, GOLL, GRUSSENDORF,  
CATO, COTTEN, LARSON, FULLER, TAYLOR,  
BOUCHER, THOMPSON, HURLEY AND BINKLEY

1 IN THE HOUSE

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 51

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to Coast Guard user fees.

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

7 WHEREAS the United States Senate in considering, as part of Senate  
8 Concurrent Resolution 32, a proposal to impose user fees on commercial  
9 fishing and recreational boat owners; and

10 WHEREAS the user fees are intended to support Coast Guard services,  
11 such as icebreaking, radio navigation aids, nonemergency search and rescue,  
12 and vessel inspections; and

13 WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature strongly objects to imposing user  
14 fees on small commercial fishing vessel operators, especially because there  
15 is no guarantee that funds raised by user fees would be earmarked for  
16 boating purposes; and

17 WHEREAS vessel owners are already subject to federal motorboat fuel  
18 taxes intended for boating and fishing enhancement; and

19 WHEREAS the proposed fee structure discriminates against smaller  
20 commercial fishing vessel operators by charging a flat annual fee of \$540  
21 for each commercial vessel under five gross tons, which is substantially  
22 more burdensome than the fee proposed for larger commercial vessels; and

23 WHEREAS the proposal would likely result in a doubling of fees in  
24 federal fiscal years 1987 through 1990; and

25 WHEREAS the imposition of these fees would have an adverse impact on  
26 the Alaska commercial fishing industry, the state's largest private employ-  
27 er;

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Alaska delega-  
29 tion in Congress is respectfully requested to use its best efforts in

1 opposing provisions in SCR 32 that would result in the imposition of Coast  
2 Guard user fees on small commercial fishing vessels in the state; and be it

3       FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Alaska delegation in Congress is unable  
4 to prevent imposition of Coast Guard user fees, that the delegation is  
5 respectfully requested to attempt to assure that the fee structure is  
6 adjusted to protect smaller commercial fishing vessel operators.

7       COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens  
8 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don  
9 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.