

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY SUND AND HERRMANN

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to tributyltin.

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

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WHEREAS tributyltin is one of the most toxic substances ever deliberately introduced into the marine environment; and

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WHEREAS tributyltin is used widely in marine bottom paints as an antifoulant and on the nets of marine fish pens to prevent the growth of plants, algae, and other substances on the pen mesh; and

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WHEREAS an ever-increasing body of evidence indicates that tributyltin-based antifouling paints, and pens treated with tributyltin, cause substantial harm to the environment, cause deformities in oysters and other shellfish, and are lethal to juvenile chinook salmon; and

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WHEREAS tributyltin is known to be harmful in amounts exceeding five parts per trillion; and

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WHEREAS high concentrations of tributyltin have been found in the water of west coast marinas, ranging from 100 to 1,000 parts per trillion; and

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WHEREAS recent studies by the National Marine Fisheries Service have found that salmon reared in sea pens treated with tributyltin absorb tributyltin in their flesh, resulting in concentrations in the fish exceeding five parts per trillion; and

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WHEREAS pen-reared salmon imported into the United States or produced domestically enter the fresh, frozen, and smoked fish markets along with wild salmon; and

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WHEREAS the United States Navy is considering a conversion to the use of tributyltin-additive bottom paints for its fleet; and

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1 WHEREAS tributyltin-based bottom paints have been banned or restricted
2 in France and Great Britain at the insistence of the fishing industry; and

3 WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency is the agency responsible
4 for the protection of the coastal environment in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency has the expert staff
6 necessary to prepare and distribute appropriate informative materials on
7 the use of tributyltin and its potential adverse effects on the marine
8 environment; and

9 WHEREAS alternative antifoulant bottom paints exist and are available
10 to military, commercial, and recreational fleets;

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of
12 the United States is respectfully requested to

13 (1) ban the use of tributyltin-based bottom paints on all mili-
14 tary, commercial, and recreational vessels, unless a method is developed
15 for the safe use of tributyltin-based bottom paint or paints containing
16 derivatives of organotin;

17 (2) require the Environmental Protection Agency to expedite its
18 special review of tributyltin and to expand the review to include all 20
19 tributyltin compounds;

20 (3) immediately ban the sale of imported or domestic salmon
21 reared in tributyltin-treated pens;

22 (4) immediately direct the Environmental Protection Agency to
23 create and distribute to every boat owner in the United States a brochure
24 regarding tributyltin;

25 (5) establish national standards for concentrations of tributyl-
26 tin in salt water and fresh water;

27 (6) impose a levy on tributyltin producers, based on the number
28 of pounds of active tributyltin produced, and use the proceeds of the levy
29 to provide each state with money to monitor, review, and evaluate the

1 effects of tributyltin on the marine environment.

2 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
3 Reagan, President of the United States; to each member of the California,
4 Oregon, and Washington Congressional delegations; to Lee M. Thomas,
5 Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and to the Honorable
6 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
7 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
8 in Congress.