

1 IN THE HOUSE BY KOPONEN AND DAVIS

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 38

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to radon.

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

7 WHEREAS high concentrations of radon, a naturally occurring radioac-  
8 tive gas, have been found in homes around the state; and

9 WHEREAS radon is found in soils, rocks, and groundwater supplies, and  
10 can enter a house through various routes; and

11 WHEREAS a preliminary survey conducted by the Environmental Protection  
12 Agency indicated that as many as 8,000,000 or 12 percent of homes nation-  
13 wide could contain dangerous levels of this cancer-causing gas, and that  
14 between 5,000 and 20,000 people each year die from lung cancer related to  
15 radon exposure; and

16 WHEREAS in Alaska, high concentrations of radon have been found in the  
17 areas surrounding Fairbanks, McKinley and Healy; and

18 WHEREAS there is no completely reliable method for predicting where  
19 high levels of indoor radon will be found because radon levels may be  
20 affected by the uranium content of nearby rock and soil, soil permeability,  
21 house construction, and other factors; and

22 WHEREAS the only way to determine whether a house contains a high  
23 level of radon is to test it with special equipment, because radon cannot  
24 be seen or smelled;

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the United States  
26 and the State of Alaska should make a coordinated, joint effort to  
27 alleviate the growing indoor radon gas problem in Alaska; and be it

28 FURTHER RESOLVED that a radon information program designed to meet the  
29 needs of the citizens of our state should be developed and implemented.

1 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Lee M. Thomas, adminis-  
2 trator of the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Honorable Ted Stevens  
3 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don  
4 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress;  
5 to Governor Steve Cowper; and to Dennis Kelso, Commissioner of Environ-  
6 mental Conservation.