

Original sponsors: Koponen, Davis
and Donley

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 38 (HESS)

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 believed to

15 be related to radon exposure; and

16 WHEREAS in Alaska, preliminary studies have identified high concen-

17 trations of radon in the areas adjacent to Fairbanks, Denali, and Healy;

18 and

19 WHEREAS, unless regional surveys are conducted, one cannot reliably

20 predict where high levels of indoor radon will be found because radon

21 levels may be affected by the uranium content of nearby rock and soil, soil

22 permeability, house construction, and other factors; and

23 WHEREAS the only way to determine whether a house contains a high

24 level of radon is to test it with special equipment, because radon cannot

25 be seen or smelled;

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the United States

27 and the State of Alaska should make a coordinated, joint effort to investi-

28 gate and alleviate the indoor radon gas problem in Alaska; and be it

29 FURTHER RESOLVED that a radon information program designed to meet the

1 needs of the citizens of our state should be developed and implemented.
2 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable John S.
3 Herrington, Secretary of Energy; to the Honorable Otis R. Bowen, Secretary
4 of Health and Human Services; to Lee M. Thomas, administrator of the En-
5 vironmental Protection Agency; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honor-
6 able Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
7 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; to Governor
8 Steve Cowper; to Dennis Kelso, Commissioner of Environmental Conservation;
9 to Myra Munson, Commissioner of Health and Social Services; and to Judith
10 M. Brady, Commissioner of Natural Resources.