

Original sponsors: Zawacki, Adams,
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1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 40 (Resources)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 Relating to petroleum research and
6 development in the state.
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
8 WHEREAS petroleum production in the state provides nearly 85 percent
9 of the revenue for the state and will continue to be the major economic
10 force in the state for coming decades; and
11 WHEREAS the state presently provides nearly 24 percent of the domestic
12 crude oil produced in the United States; and
13 WHEREAS the petroleum resources in the state's arctic, subarctic, and
14 offshore regions are expected to constitute nearly 40 percent of all of the
15 future petroleum resources found within the United States in the near
16 future; and
17 WHEREAS potential incremental oil production through enhanced oil
18 recovery could amount to 10,000,000,000 barrels from known Alaska reserves;
19 and
20 WHEREAS enhanced oil recovery from current and future oil fields in
21 the state will require continuing basic laboratory research and modeling;
22 and
23 WHEREAS the arctic North Slope represents a unique and major petroleum
24 province that has special research needs and requires special technology;
25 and
26 WHEREAS the state is well suited geographically to be the site for a
27 research center for the petroleum development needs of the arctic North
28 Slope; and
29 WHEREAS the United States Department of Energy is interested in

1 increasing the domestic supply of petroleum by encouraging scientific and
2 technological advances at all stages of Alaska petroleum resource assess-
3 ment, research development, and technology transfer; and

4 WHEREAS, based on the advice of the United States Energy Research
5 Advisory Board, the United States Congress has appropriated funds for the
6 U.S. Department of Energy to initiate geoscience and enhanced oil recovery
7 research and development; and

8 WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Energy and Alaska recognize that it
9 would be beneficial to cooperatively sponsor those projects on petroleum
10 resource identification and extraction in which both the department and the
11 state are interested; and

12 WHEREAS the state and the U.S. Department of Energy also recognize
13 that it is beneficial to help promote petroleum resource identification,
14 petroleum research characterization, development of extraction technology
15 for petroleum resources, and the transfer of petroleum research technology
16 to the private sector; and

17 WHEREAS the state is the owner of vast oil reserves now being produced
18 by lessees at Prudhoe Bay, Kuparuk, and other fields, but the state is not
19 at this time able to analyze the industry's estimate about when production
20 from these vast fields will begin to decline; and

21 WHEREAS the state's revenue projections are affected by the decline
22 projections provided by industry, and the projected decline of the Prudhoe
23 Bay field has been changed from 1987 to 1990; and

24 WHEREAS the state will benefit from petroleum research that includes
25 reservoir analysis and understanding of the actual benefits derived from
26 enhanced oil recovery; and

27 WHEREAS the Petroleum Development Laboratory of the University of
28 Alaska, Interior/Western, at Fairbanks is a nationally recognized and
29 well-equipped petroleum research center that places special emphasis on the

1 unique problems associated with development of the petroleum resources of
2 the state;

3 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports petroleum
4 research and development and urges the Governor and the Alaska congres-
5 sional delegation to continue to encourage petroleum research and develop-
6 ment in the state by supporting the Petroleum Development Laboratory of the
7 University of Alaska, Interior/Western, at Fairbanks; and be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Secretary
9 of the U.S. Department of Energy to recognize the importance to national
10 security of petroleum research and development at the Petroleum Development
11 Laboratory of the University of Alaska, Interior/Western, at Fairbanks.

12 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable John S.
13 Herrington, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy; and to the Honor-
14 able Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
15 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
16 in Congress.