Introduced: 5/5/87
Referred: Resources

5-1185A

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the water quality standards
6 regarding turbidity under the Clean
7 Water Act.

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

9 WHEREAS the Legislature believes that the federal Clean Water Act was
10 enacted primarily to protect the water of the nation from degradation
11 caused by chemical pollutants and to ensure that industrial water users
12 would be held accountable for their effluent discharges; and

13 WHEREAS the water quality standard for turbidity adopted by the state
14 has interfered with reasonable economic opportunities for resource develop-
15 ment in the state; and

16 WHEREAS the Legislature has determined that there is no reasonable
17 relationship between the economic and social costs of the retention of the
18 turbidity standard for other than drinking water systems and the benefits
19 obtained from its retention for all water uses; and

20 WHEREAS the Legislature is considering the repeal of the existing
21 water quality standard for turbidity but wishes to comply with the require-
22 ments of sec. 303 of the Clean Water Act; and

23 WHEREAS the Legislature has sought to determine whether the repeal of
24 the state turbidity standard is permitted under the Clean Water Act and
25 whether there would be adverse environmental consequences if it relied on
26 the remaining water quality standards; and

27 WHEREAS the drinking water standards now apply to all but two water
28 bodies in the state; and

29 WHEREAS each water body in Alaska does not naturally meet the

1 criterion for drinking water and the Department of Environmental Conserva-
2 tion cautions the residents of the state on their use of natural water as
3 drinking water without treatment; and
4 WHEREAS the Legislature believes that the application of the drinking
5 water standard for turbidity has been incorrectly applied to state waters
6 under the terms of the Clean Water Act and the multiple use classification
7 of state water;
8 BE IT RESOLVED the the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
9 the Governor to direct the Attorney General of Alaska to propose procedures
10 under which the legislative committee hearings on legislation to change the
11 water quality criteria in Alaska would qualify under the public par-
12 ticipation criteria required under federal regulations at 40 C.F.R.
13 sec. 131.20(b) and report these procedures to the resources committees of
14 the Legislature by November 1, 1987; and be it
15 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature respectfully requests the
16 Governor to direct the commissioner of environmental conservation to submit
17 an outline of the procedures that are necessary for the Department of
18 Environmental Conservation to submit to the Environmental Protection Agency
19 a revised water quality plan with a turbidity standard that affects water
20 only where drinking water enters a distribution system and report this
21 outline to the resources committees of the Legislature by November 1, 1987.
22 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Grace Berg
23 Schaible, Attorney General, and the Honorable Dennis D. Kelso, Commissioner
24 of Environmental Conservation.