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Referred: Resources

5-1726A

BY THE SENATE SPECIAL  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the further development of  
6 Alaskan coal.

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

8 WHEREAS advances in modern mining technology, equipment, and services  
9 have greatly enhanced coal mining extraction and reclamation capabilities;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS Art. VIII of the Constitution of the State of Alaska states  
12 that the natural resources of the state should be developed and managed as  
13 a public trust; and

14 WHEREAS the state contains more than 40 percent of the entire known  
15 coal reserves in the United States; and

16 WHEREAS currently the state's annual coal production of 1,600,000 tons  
17 comprises less than 0.2 percent of the total annual United States produc-  
18 tion; and

19 WHEREAS there is only one active coal mine in the entire state; and

20 WHEREAS between 1972 and 1987 Australian steam coal production has  
21 grown from 250,000 tons a year to more than 46,000,000 tons a year, with a  
22 value of nearly \$3.4 billion; and

23 WHEREAS there is great potential for expanding both instate utiliza-  
24 tion and Pacific Rim export markets for Alaskan coal;

25 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
26 the Governor to encourage the commissioner of natural resources, the com-  
27 missioner of environmental conservation, and the commissioner of fish and  
28 game to pursue policies that will lead to the removal of regulatory impedi-  
29 ments to, and further promote the development of, the crucial coal mining

1 industry within the state.

2 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Judith Brady,  
3 commissioner of natural resources; the Honorable Dennis Kelso, commissioner  
4 of environmental conservation; the Honorable Don Collinsworth, commissioner  
5 of fish and game; the Honorable J. Anthony Smith, commissioner of commerce  
6 and economic development; and to the Honorable Mark Hickey, commissioner of  
7 transportation and public facilities.