

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MENARD, LARSON,
ZAWACKI AND GRUENBERG

2

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Supporting the development of coal

6

mining at Wishbone Hill.

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

8 WHEREAS the economies of communities in Southcentral Alaska have been
9 slowed in recent years due to a variety of factors; and

10 WHEREAS Alaska's coal reserves are the greatest of any state, yet
11 remain largely undeveloped and untapped; and

12 WHEREAS Alaska has long sought to encourage trade with its neighbors
13 on the Pacific Rim; and

14 WHEREAS Idemitsu Alaska, Inc., the subsidiary of a large Japanese
15 energy firm, Idemitsu Kosan, Ltd., owns eight state coal leases in the
16 Wishbone Hill district and has immediate plans to mine the coal and export
17 it to Japan; and

18 WHEREAS the Wishbone Hill district has been the site of extensive coal
19 mining activity over the last 70 years; and

20 WHEREAS Idemitsu Alaska, Inc., anticipates an employment base of 180
21 full-time jobs with an annual payroll of approximately \$10,000,000 for the
22 mine itself; and

23 WHEREAS the State of Alaska, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Alaska
24 Railroad, and the City of Seward would each benefit from increased revenue
25 and employment from royalties, property taxes, indirect effects on trans-
26 portation, and the other services required by an operating mine;

27 BE IT RESOLVED that the Sixteenth Alaska State Legislature strongly
28 supports the development of Alaska's natural resources, including the coal
29 deposits at Wishbone Hill; and be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature strongly urges that the state
2 agencies working on this project coordinate their actions and do their
3 utmost to take whatever prudent action is necessary to bring this project
4 into operation.

5 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to Mark S. Hickey, commis-
6 sioner of transportation and public facilities; to Lennie Boston-Gorsuch,
7 commissioner of natural resources; to Dennis D. Kelso, commissioner of
8 environmental conservation; Don W. Collinsworth, commissioner of fish and
9 game; and to Frank Turpin, president and chief-executive officer of the
10 Alaska Railroad Corporation.