

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BROWN AND GOLL

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to Congressional reauthoriza-

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tion of the Clean Air Act.

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

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WHEREAS the people of the state are committed to healthful air for

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residents of the state to breathe; and

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WHEREAS the air in Anchorage and Fairbanks periodically contains

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unhealthy levels of carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas, during cold weather

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conditions in those cities; and

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WHEREAS carbon monoxide presents a health risk to each resident of

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Anchorage and Fairbanks because it robs the human body of oxygen and is a

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particular health risk to the elderly, infants, pregnant women, and indi-

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viduals with chronic heart and lung diseases; and

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WHEREAS carbon monoxide is a product of inefficient combustion and at

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least 90 percent of the carbon monoxide in the air of Anchorage and

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Fairbanks results from automobile exhausts during the cold winter months;

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and

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WHEREAS the carbon monoxide problem in Anchorage and Fairbanks can be

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improved by the adoption of two primary strategies: by reducing the number

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of automobile miles traveled during the cold winter months and by reducing

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the amount of carbon monoxide each vehicle emits; and

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WHEREAS the expanded use of mass transit and ride-sharing will reduce

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the number of automobile miles traveled, thus reducing the amount of carbon

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monoxide emitted into the Anchorage and Fairbanks air; and

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WHEREAS the Anchorage and Fairbanks municipal governments are present-

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ly restricted by Federal law in their ability to use Federal gas tax funds

1 to expand mass transit and other more efficient transportation measures;
2 and

3 WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency now certifies new vehicles
4 for carbon monoxide emissions at temperatures ranging between 68 to 86
5 degrees Fahrenheit, instead of a range more appropriate to colder climates
6 beginning at 20 degrees Fahrenheit; and

7 WHEREAS a cold temperature certification program would reduce actual
8 carbon monoxide emissions by as much as 28 percent; and

9 WHEREAS the Congress of the United States is now in the process of
10 reauthorizing and amending the Clean Air Act;

11 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Congress to
12 support the reauthorization of the Clean Air Act with amendments noted in
13 this resolution; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED that the reauthorization of the Clean Air Act

15 (1) permit cities that exceed emission standards established under
16 the Act the local option of using Federal gas tax money for the operation
17 of mass transit, light rail, ride-sharing systems, and other transportation
18 measures as a means of reducing air pollution; and

19 (2) require the Environmental Protection Agency to certify motor
20 vehicles for carbon monoxide emission compliance at a colder temperature
21 range beginning at 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

22 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle,
23 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the
24 Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to
25 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators,
26 and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
27 delegation in Congress.