

Original sponsors: Cato, Collins,
and Wallis

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15 (Rules)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the increase in federal
6 motor fuel taxes and the use of fuel
7 taxes to reduce the federal budget
8 deficit.

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

10 WHEREAS the United States Congress is looking for effective means to
11 reduce the federal budget deficit in the immediate future; and

12 WHEREAS several proposals being considered for deficit reduction would
13 increase the existing federal fuel taxes by various sizable increments; and

14 WHEREAS the United States Department of Energy has stated that a motor
15 fuel tax will create an economic loss that is greater than the possible
16 benefits of the tax; and

17 WHEREAS motor fuel taxes are regressive taxes and their increase would
18 affect the poor to a greater extent than persons of other income levels;
19 and

20 WHEREAS states would not receive direct revenue benefits from in-
21 creased federal fuel taxes, but would incur substantial increases in their
22 public assistance costs; and

23 WHEREAS United States residents in the south, midwest, and west pay
24 more fuel taxes because they must travel greater distances by personal
25 vehicles than residents of other regions and, therefore, would bear a
26 disproportionate burden of deficit reduction; and

27 WHEREAS since a great need exists to rehabilitate and reconstruct the
28 nation's transportation system infrastructure, motor fuel taxes should
29 continue to be dedicated to transportation purposes; and

1 WHEREAS the tourism industry, one of the top three employers in 80
2 percent of the states, would be adversely affected by the proposed fuel tax
3 increases; and

4 WHEREAS the gross national product, the consumer price index, and
5 employment all would be severely and negatively affected by the proposed
6 fuel tax hikes; and

7 WHEREAS raising the motor fuel taxes and using the taxes for deficit
8 reduction purposes would not only undermine the highway trust fund, but
9 would severely and negatively affect the nation's transportation system;
10 and

11 WHEREAS Senate Resolution 63 in the United States Congress states that
12 federal excise taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel should not be used to
13 reduce the federal deficit; and

14 WHEREAS House Resolution 41 in the United States Congress states that
15 federal excise taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel should not be increased to
16 reduce the federal deficit;

17 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United
18 States Congress to oppose an increase in the federal motor fuel taxes and
19 the use of the taxes to reduce the federal budget deficit, and expresses
20 its support for Senate Resolution 63 and House Resolution 41 in the United
21 States Congress.

22 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
23 President of the United States; the Honorable Don Quayle, Vice-President of
24 the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jim
25 Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Lloyd
26 Bentsen, Chair of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee; the Honorable Dan
27 Rostenkowski, Chair of the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee; to the
28 Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Trans-
29 portation; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank

1 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
2 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.