

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY
REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to oil and gas drilling on

6

the North Aleutian Basin Outer

7

Continental Shelf.

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

9 WHEREAS the state fully supports the prudent and orderly development
10 of the state's outer continental shelf oil and gas resources in an environ-
11 mentally acceptable manner; and

12 WHEREAS the state has been very responsive to the nation's need to
13 decrease its dependence on foreign oil; and

14 WHEREAS there are presently 10 Alaskan planning areas on the Federal
15 Outer Continental Shelf leasing schedule, encompassing approximately
16 480,000,000 acres; and

17 WHEREAS, with the exception of the North Aleutian Basin, the state has
18 not requested a ban or moratorium on oil and gas leasing and drilling on
19 any of Alaska's outer continental shelf planning areas; and

20 WHEREAS the North Aleutian Basin lease sale area has relatively low
21 hydrocarbon potential; and

22 WHEREAS over 1,300,000 marine mammals inhabit or migrate through the
23 North Aleutian Basin area; and

24 WHEREAS virtually the entire world's population of black brant and
25 emperor geese stage in nearby coastal areas during the fall migration;
26 and

27 WHEREAS an annual average of 45,000,000 to 60,000,000 adult salmon
28 have migrated through the North Aleutian Basin each year since 1978; and

29 WHEREAS domestic Bristol Bay fisheries have an average wholesale value

1 of \$250,000,000 and employ over 10,000 people annually; and

2 WHEREAS the Bristol Bay area coastal habitats and fish and wildlife
3 resources are highly vulnerable to oil spill damage and disturbance; and

4 WHEREAS significant gaps exist in understanding the distribution,
5 abundance, and population dynamics associated with many of these renewable
6 resources; and

7 WHEREAS industry has not demonstrated the ability to adequately con-
8 tain and clean up oil spills under the extreme meteorological and ocean-
9 ographic conditions common in Bristol Bay; and

10 WHEREAS the people of the state, acting through their duly elected
11 representatives, have delayed oil and gas leasing in adjacent state waters;
12 and

13 WHEREAS by delaying leasing in state waters and delaying drilling in
14 federal waters in the Bristol Bay area, the opportunity exists to gain
15 additional knowledge and develop additional technologies that will protect
16 fish and wildlife resources in the presence of oil and gas activities, and
17 further assess potential impacts to these resources from the presence of
18 oil and gas activities; and

19 WHEREAS, given the facts stated above, it is not in the nation's or
20 the state's best interest to permit drilling in the North Aleutian Basin at
21 this time;

22 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
23 the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior to defer for
24 a reasonable, fixed period of time the approval or permitting of any drill-
25 ing, exploration activity, or other development on the North Aleutian Basin
26 Outer Continental Shelf; and be it

27 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully requests the Con-
28 gress of the United States to prohibit the expenditure by the Department of
29 the Interior of any money for the conduct of leasing or the approval of

1 permitting of any drilling or other exploration activity on the North
2 Aleutian Basin Outer Continental Shelf at this time.

3 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
4 President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice President of
5 the United States and President of the United States Senate; the Honorable
6 George J. Mitchell, President Pro Tem of the United States Senate; the
7 Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the United States House of Representa-
8 tives; the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Secretary of the Interior; and Robert E.
9 Kallman, director, Minerals Management Service; and to the Honorable Ted
10 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, United States Senators, and the
11 Honorable Don Young, United States Representative, members of the Alaska
12 delegation in Congress.