

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY  
REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32 am

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.

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

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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

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

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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

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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

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

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

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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

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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

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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 failed in its efforts to contain or control the  
8 catastrophic oil spill in Prince William Sound even under favorable  
9 meteorological and oceanographic conditions; and

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

13 WHEREAS the people of the state, acting through their duly elected  
14 representatives, have delayed oil and gas leasing in adjacent state waters;  
15 and

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

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

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

1        **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature respectfully requests the Con-  
2 gress of the United States to prohibit the expenditure by the Department of  
3 the Interior of any money for the conduct of leasing or the approval of  
4 permitting of any drilling or other exploration activity on the North  
5 Aleutian Basin Outer Continental Shelf at this time.

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