

Original sponsor: Rules/Governor

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 SENATE CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32 (Resources)
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, the Alaska rural population depends heavily on commercial and
5 subsistence use of these fish and wildlife resources; and

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

9 WHEREAS industry has failed in its efforts to contain or control the
10 catastrophic oil spill in Prince William Sound even under favorable metero-
11 logical and oceanographic conditions; and

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

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

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

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

27 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
28 the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior to suspend
29 and reevaluate the approval or permitting of any drilling, exploration

1 activity, or other development on the North Aleutian Basin Outer Conti-
2 nental Shelf; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully requests the Presi-
4 dent to suspend Lease Sale 92 and to include oil and gas leasing in Bristol
5 Bay and the North Aleutian Basin to the work assigned to the President's
6 Special Task Force set up to measure the potential for environmental damage
7 in the offshore areas of California and Florida, including the potential
8 for a buy-back of those leases; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully requests the Con-
10 gress of the United States to prohibit the expenditure by the Department of
11 the Interior of any money for the conduct of leasing or the approval of
12 permitting of any drilling or other exploration activity on the North
13 Aleutian Basin Outer Continental Shelf at this time.

14 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
15 President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of
16 the United States and President of the United States Senate; the Honorable
17 Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tem of the United States Senate; the Honor-
18 able Jim Wright, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; the
19 Honorable Manuel Lujan, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable James D.
20 Watkins, Secretary of Energy; the Honorable Richard G. Darman, Director,
21 Office of Management and Budget; the Honorable William K. Reilly, Director,
22 Environmental Protection Administration; William E. Evans, Administrator,
23 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and Robert E. Kallman,
24 Director, Minerals Management Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and
25 the Honorable Frank Murkowski, United States Senators, and the Honorable
26 Don Young, United States Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
27 in Congress.