

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY M. DAVIS, GOLL AND
BROWN

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the safety of oil tanker

6

traffic into and out of the Port of

7

Valdez.

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

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WHEREAS the wreck of the oil tanker Exxon Valdez in Prince William
10 Sound has resulted in the largest oil spill in United States history; and

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WHEREAS the tanker ran aground on a well known and well charted
12 navigation hazard; and

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WHEREAS an investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board
14 determined that the captain of the vessel had a blood alcohol content above
15 the allowable limit for piloting the craft; and

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WHEREAS the spill will have a significant long-term effect on the
17 environment and economy of the State of Alaska; and

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WHEREAS the responsible parties were unable to contain the more than
19 250,000 barrels of crude oil that escaped the tanker hold; and

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WHEREAS equipment and personnel promised by Alyeska Pipeline Service
21 Company in its oil spill contingency plan were not immediately available
22 during the crucial early hours of the spill; and

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WHEREAS further development of the state's oil resources is dependent
24 on environmentally sound practices of extraction and transport; and

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WHEREAS profits generated for the oil industry can compensate for the
26 cost of increased safety;

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BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
28 the United States Congress to conduct oversight hearings on the safety of
29 oil tanker traffic in the Prince William Sound area; and be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress is urged to examine the ability of
2 the United States Coast Guard to maintain secure traffic, the criteria for
3 certifying oil tanker crews and officers, the minimum standards in the
4 design of oil tankers allowed into the Sound, the oil spill containment
5 equipment that should be available on each tanker, and any changes in
6 enforcement that can help prevent this type of tragedy from occurring in
7 the future.

8 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle,
9 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the
10 Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
11 Honorable George Mitchell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honor-
12 able Ernest F. Hollings, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
13 Science and Transportation; the Honorable Bennett Johnston, Chairman, U.S.
14 Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Quentin
15 Burdick, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works;
16 the Honorable Walter P. Jones, Chairman, U.S. House of Representatives
17 Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; the Honorable Morris K. Udall,
18 Chairman, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Interior and Insular
19 Affairs; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
20 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
21 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.