

Offered: 4/20/89
Referred: Transportation

6-1172E

Original sponsors: M.Davis, Goll,
Brown, and Menard

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41 (Resources)
3 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:
9 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
11 WHEREAS the tanker ran aground on a well known and well charted navi-
12 gation hazard; and
13 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
16 WHEREAS the spill will have a significant long-term effect on the
17 environment and economy of the State of Alaska; and
18 WHEREAS the responsible parties were unable to contain the more than
19 250,000 barrels of crude oil that escaped the tanker hold; and
20 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
23 WHEREAS further development of the state's oil resources is dependent
24 on environmentally sound practices of extraction and transport; and
25 WHEREAS profits generated for the oil industry can compensate for the
26 cost of increased safety;
27 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the United
28 States Congress in its oversight hearings on the safety of oil tanker
29 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 under its current budget to maintain secure
3 traffic through Prince William Sound, the criteria for certifying oil
4 tanker crews and officers, the oil spill containment equipment that should
5 be available on each tanker, and any changes in enforcement that can help
6 prevent this type of tragedy from occurring in the future; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress is urged to examine the best avail-
8 able technology for the design of oil tankers allowed into Prince William
9 Sound, including tanker size and the use of double hulls, bow thrusters,
10 and navigational and radar systems; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress is urged to examine the need for
12 adequate bonding for tanker owners and the need to require the mandatory
13 retirement of aging tankers.

14 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle,
15 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the
16 Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
17 Honorable George Mitchell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honor-
18 able Ernest F. Hollings, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
19 Science and Transportation; the Honorable Bennett Johnston, Chairman, U.S.
20 Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Dale
21 Bumpers, Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests
22 of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable
23 Quentin Burdick, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public
24 Works; the Honorable Walter P. Jones, Chairman, U.S. House of Representa-
25 tives Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; the Honorable Morris K.
26 Udall, Chairman, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Interior and
27 Insular Affairs; the Honorable George Miller, Chairman, Subcommittee on
28 Water and Power Resources of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on
29 Interior and Insular Affairs; the Honorable Brock Adams and the Honorable

1 Slade Gorton, U.S. Senators from the State of Washington; the Honorable Rod
2 Chandler, the Honorable Norman D. Dicks, the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, the
3 Honorable Jim McDermott, the Honorable John Miller, the Honorable Sid
4 Morrison, the Honorable Al Swift, and the Honorable Jolene Unsoeld, members
5 of the U.S. House of Representatives from the State of Washington; the
6 Honorable Joel Pritchard, President of the Senate of the State of Washing-
7 ton; the Honorable Joseph E. King, Speaker of the House of Representatives
8 of the State of Washington; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honor-
9 able Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
10 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.