

BY JACKO, DAVIDSON,
M.DAVIS, AND BROWN

1 IN THE HOUSE

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 51

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Requesting the buy-back of federal oil

6

leases in Bristol Bay.

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

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

11 WHEREAS there are presently 10 Alaskan planning areas on the Federal
12 Outer Continental Shelf leasing schedule, encompassing approximately
13 480,000,000 acres; and

14 WHEREAS the Federal Outer Continental Shelf leasing schedule includes
15 land within Bristol Bay; and

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

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

21 WHEREAS over 1,300,000 marine mammals inhabit or migrate annually
22 through the North Aleutian Basin area and virtually the world's population
23 of black brant and emperor geese stage in nearby coastal areas during the
24 fall migration; and

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

27 WHEREAS domestic Bristol Bay fisheries have an average wholesale value
28 of \$250,000,000 and employ over 10,000 people annually; and

29 WHEREAS, the Alaska rural population depends heavily on commercial and

1 subsistence use of these fish and wildlife resources; and

2 WHEREAS the oil industry has failed in its efforts to contain or
3 control the catastrophic oil spill in Prince William Sound even under
4 favorable meteorological and oceanographic conditions; and

5 WHEREAS the oil industry has not demonstrated the ability to adequate-
6 ly contain and clean up oil spills under the extreme meteorological and
7 oceanographic conditions common in Bristol Bay; and

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

11 WHEREAS by the delay of leasing in state waters and in adjacent fed-
12 eral waters in the Bristol Bay area, the opportunity exists to gain addi-
13 tional knowledge and develop additional technologies that will protect fish
14 and wildlife resources in the presence of oil and gas activities, and
15 further assess potential adverse affects on these resources from the pres-
16 ence of oil and gas activities; and

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

20 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
21 the Secretary of the Interior to suspend and reevaluate the approval or
22 permitting of any drilling, exploration activity, or other development on
23 the North Aleutian Basin Outer Continental Shelf; and be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully requests the Con-
25 gress of the United States to prohibit the expenditure by the Department of
26 the Interior of any money for the conduct of leasing or the approval of
27 permitting of any drilling or other exploration activity on the North
28 Aleutian Basin Outer Continental Shelf at this time; and be it

29 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully requests the

1 Congress of the United States direct the buy-back of any existing federal
2 oil and gas leases presently issued in the North Aleutian Basin Outer
3 Continental Shelf and Bristol Bay; and be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature requests that the Congress
5 declare the North Aleutian Basin Outer Continental Shelf and Bristol Bay as
6 a critical habitat area under federal law.

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