

Original sponsors: Swackhammer and
Wallis

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9 (Resources)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the Prince William Sound oil
6 spill.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

8 WHEREAS the state fully supports the prudent and orderly development
9 of the state's oil and gas resources in an environmentally acceptable
10 manner; and

11 WHEREAS in the early morning hours of March 24, 1989, the Exxon Valdez
12 tanker ran aground, spilling more than 10,000,000 gallons of unrefined
13 crude oil into Prince William Sound; and

14 WHEREAS at the time of the spill the Exxon Valdez was under the con-
15 trol of Exxon U.S.A.; and

16 WHEREAS the oil spill has had a direct and catastrophic effect on the
17 wildlife normally inhabiting the area, killing thousands of sea birds,
18 hundreds of sea otters, and scores of eagles; and

19 WHEREAS it will take years to assess the damage caused by the ground-
20 ing of the Exxon Valdez; and

21 WHEREAS the people of Prince William Sound, the Kenai Peninsula,
22 Kodiak Island, and the Alaska Peninsula have experienced firsthand the
23 oiling of pristine shoreline; and

24 WHEREAS national treasures, including Katmai National Park, will not
25 return to a normal state in our lifetime, and probably not in the lifetime
26 of our children; and

27 WHEREAS all of the people of the state have been affected by the Exxon
28 Valdez incident; and

29 WHEREAS the communities most affected by the spill are located near

1 the waters of Prince William Sound, Blying Sound, Cook Inlet, and Shelikof
2 Strait; and

3 WHEREAS the businesses and individuals within the communities near the
4 water contaminated by the oil spill had expected record financial returns
5 in 1989 from fishing and fishing-related industries; and

6 WHEREAS the very existence of these individuals depends on fishing and
7 fishing-related resources and industry; and

8 WHEREAS the people living in the affected areas face a disruption and
9 probable extinction of their traditional lifestyles by a tragic incident
10 over which they had no control; and

11 WHEREAS individuals and businesses within these communities may never
12 recover from the emotional and financial effects of the oil spill, the oil
13 industry response, and future cleanup efforts; and

14 WHEREAS the oil spill has triggered a dramatic rise in the price of
15 gasoline throughout the state and the United States; and

16 WHEREAS this uncalled for increase is harming the economy of the state
17 and the United States;

18 BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives respectfully requests
19 Exxon U.S.A., Alyeska Pipeline Company, and the other parties responsible
20 for the damages caused by the oil spill in Prince William Sound to immedi-
21 ately recognize their financial, moral, and ethical responsibility for the
22 direct and indirect effects of the oil spill, particularly on the communi-
23 ties near the waters of Prince William Sound, Blying Sound, Cook Inlet, and
24 Shelikof Strait; and be it

25 FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives respectfully re-
26 quests Exxon U.S.A., Alyeska Pipeline Company, and the other parties re-
27 sponsible for the damages caused by the oil spill in Prince William Sound
28 to expedite the processing of the financial claims made by the residents
29 and businesses in the communities near the waters of Prince William Sound,

1 Blying Sound, Cook Inlet, and Shelikof Strait; and be it

2 FURTHER RESOLVED that Exxon U.S.A. and all member companies of the
3 Alyeska Pipeline Company immediately roll back any gasoline price increase
4 initiated because of the grounding and oil spill of the tanker Exxon
5 Valdez.

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 U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C.
9 Byrd, President Pro Tem of the United States Senate; the Honorable Jim
10 Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Manuel
11 Lujan, Secretary of the Interior; Samuel K. Skinner, Secretary of Transpor-
12 tation; Admiral Paul A. Yost, Jr., Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard;
13 Robert E. Kallman, Director, Minerals Management Service; the Chairs of the
14 Boards of Directors of Exxon U.S.A., Alyeska Pipeline Company, and VECO
15 Inc.; the mayors of the communities of Valdez, Cordova, Tatitlik, Chenega,
16 the Kenai Borough, and the Kodiak Borough; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens
17 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
18 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.