

1 IN THE SENATE

BY ZHAROFF

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Supporting efforts to stop or postpone

6

the federal government's plans to com-

7

plete outer continental shelf oil and

8

gas leases in Bristol Bay and the North

9

Aleutian Basin.

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

11 WHEREAS the State of Alaska fully supports the prudent and orderly
12 development of oil and gas reserves in an environmentally acceptable man-
13 ner; and

14 WHEREAS the state has been responsive to the nation's need to decrease
15 the nation's dependence on foreign oil; and

16 WHEREAS the proposed North Aleutian Basin lease sale area in the
17 southwest section of Bristol Bay, designated as Outer Continental Shelf
18 Lease Sale 92, has relatively low hydrocarbon potential; and

19 WHEREAS the Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service
20 analysis indicated that the potential quantity of petroleum in the sale
21 area represents only about three weeks worth of oil for the nation; and

22 WHEREAS Bristol Bay and the North Aleutian Basin support the world's
23 largest sockeye salmon fishery, a world-class herring fishery, and major
24 components of the king crab, tanner crab, and groundfish resources of the
25 Bering Sea; and

26 WHEREAS these fisheries employed in excess of 10,000 people and had a
27 value to the fishermen in excess of \$414,000,000, with an economic value in
28 excess of \$1,000,000,000 in 1985; and

29 WHEREAS, at 1988 prices, a single sockeye salmon was equal in value to

1 a barrel of oil; and

2 WHEREAS Bristol Bay, the North Aleutian Basin, and Unimak Pass com-
3 prise one of the world's most important fishery and wildlife migration
4 corridors, used by up to 100,000,000 adult salmon, the world's entire
5 northern fur seal population, the entire Pacific gray whale population, and
6 hundreds of thousands of geese and millions of ducks, including virtually
7 the entire world population of black brant and cackling geese; and

8 WHEREAS the Lease Sale 92 environmental impact statement predicted
9 that there would be adverse effects on Bristol Bay's fisheries and other
10 resources as a result of oil and gas development, and that the total net
11 economic loss could reach \$62,000,000 with a minimum gross economic loss of
12 \$500,000,000; and

13 WHEREAS the inhabitants and the fish and wildlife resources of the
14 Bristol Bay area are highly vulnerable to oil spill damage and disturbance;
15 and

16 WHEREAS significant gaps exist in understanding the distribution,
17 abundance, and population dynamics associated with these renewable re-
18 sources; and

19 WHEREAS the oil industry has not demonstrated its ability to contain
20 and clean up oil spills under the extreme meteorological and oceanographic
21 conditions that are characteristic of Bristol Bay; and

22 WHEREAS the state has consistently recommended against oil and gas
23 leasing in Bristol Bay and the North Aleutian Basin, exhausted all adminis-
24 trative avenues to stop federal leasing in the Bay, and is now pursuing
25 legal action to stop Lease Sale 92; and

26 WHEREAS the state has advocated that oil exploration and drilling not
27 occur in the North Aleutian Basin lease sale area until oil spill cleanup
28 technology has developed to the point that it can cope with the meteorolog-
29 ical and oceanographic conditions that are characteristic of Bristol Bay;

1 and

2 WHEREAS the federal government has ignored the state's recommendations
3 and proceeded with leasing even though it does not make economic or en-
4 vironmental sense and is contrary to the provisions of the Outer Conti-
5 nental Shelf Lands Act;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature fully supports the
7 Governor of Alaska in his administrative and legal efforts to stop or
8 postpone oil and gas leasing in Bristol Bay and the North Aleutian Basin;
9 and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the Secretary of the
11 Interior to return the bids for Lease Sale 92 and cancel further plans for
12 leasing in Bristol Bay and the North Aleutian Basin.

13 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
14 President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of
15 the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jim
16 Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Manuel
17 Lujan, Jr., Secretary of the Interior; Robert Kallman, Director, Minerals
18 Management Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
19 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Represen-
20 tative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.