

1 IN THE SENATE

BY COGHILL, ZHAROFF
AND KELLY

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to solid waste management in

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remote and isolated Arctic communities.

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

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WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency has proposed new rules to

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regulate the disposal of solid waste; and

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WHEREAS the changes proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency

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will have substantial effects in each community in the state; and

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WHEREAS many communities in the state affected by the proposed rules

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are remote and isolated; and

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WHEREAS ideally suited sites for solid waste disposal are limited by

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the realities of an Arctic environment; and

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WHEREAS diverse and severe climactic conditions in Alaska, particular-

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ly in the Arctic, can severely limit the development and operation of

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facilities for the disposal of solid waste; and

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WHEREAS less than three percent of the total number of landfills in

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the state can use the Environmental Protection Agency cost analysis model

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to estimate cost compliance with the proposed Environmental Protection

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Agency rules; and

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WHEREAS the proposed rules of the Environmental Protection Agency

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contain no special provisions for small or remote facilities; and

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WHEREAS the state is now working with unorganized communities not

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within a borough of the state to devise regional plans for the collection

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and transportation of solid waste to regional facilities that can comply

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with the regulations of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

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on the management of solid waste; and

1 WHEREAS the closure of existing solid waste facilities before the
2 implementation of the plans for the regional facilities will be counterpro-
3 ductive to solutions to solid waste management; and

4 WHEREAS the closure of existing facilities would impede the progress
5 that the state is making in its efforts to assist small communities in the
6 management of their solid waste;

7 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Environ-
8 mental Protection Agency to exempt the remote and isolated communities in
9 the state from the rules proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency
10 for solid waste management; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Environ-
12 mental Protection Agency work with the Alaska Department of Environmental
13 Conservation to establish and enforce special standards for solid waste
14 management tailored to remote and isolated communities in the state.

15 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to William K. Reilly,
16 Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and to the Honorable
17 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
18 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
19 in Congress.