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1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 58

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Endorsing a proposal in pending federal

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legislation to establish citizens'

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advisory committees to assist in the

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development and implementation of oil

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discharge contingency response plans.

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

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WHEREAS the grounding of the Exxon Valdez and the disastrous oil spill

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that occurred demonstrates the dangers of continued oil shipments through

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state waters without more effective oil spill prevention and response

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capability in place; and

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WHEREAS prevention and response capability now being installed by the

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Alyeska Pipeline Service Company cannot be said to have sufficiently re-

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duced the risks of another disaster until independent risk assessments are

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made and necessary standards for prevention and response are understood,

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established, and met; and

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WHEREAS prevention and response capability now being installed by the

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Alyeska Pipeline Service Company for the tankers carrying trans-Alaska

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pipeline oil through the waters of Prince William Sound cannot be fully

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implemented without review by concerned, and potentially affected, citizens

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using their intimate knowledge of the region; and

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WHEREAS an active citizens' effort to assess risks and to participate

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in the installation and operation of a spill prevention and response plan

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for Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet can help ensure that the knowledge

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and resources of citizens of adjacent communities are available in the case

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of another emergency; and

1 WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature desires to see the creation in
2 law of independent and properly funded regional citizens' advisory commit-
3 tees for Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet to monitor and advise on oil
4 discharge prevention and response, port operations, and environmental
5 effects of terminal operations and marine oil transportation; and

6 WHEREAS, in cooperation with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, citi-
7 zens of Prince William Sound and adjacent areas have formed a regional
8 citizens' advisory committee to advise Alyeska on the oil spill and preven-
9 tion response plan being developed for Prince William Sound; and

10 WHEREAS the Regional Citizens' Advisory Committee is comprised of
11 representatives of Kodiak, Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak Island Village
12 Mayors, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Valdez, Seward, Homer, Cordova, Whittier,
13 Seldovia, the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Association, Cordova Dis-
14 trict Fishermen United, Chugach Alaska Corporation, and the National Wild-
15 life Federation; and

16 WHEREAS consensus legislative language for a citizens' advisory com-
17 mittee has been developed among the community representatives and fishing
18 industry groups that are represented on the Regional Citizens' Advisory
19 Committee, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, and other community groups,
20 building upon the amendment contained in Title V of S. 686 that has been
21 passed by the United States Senate; and

22 WHEREAS this consensus language was passed by the House of Representa-
23 tives in H.R. 2459, the Coast Guard Authorization Bill, and will be con-
24 sidered by a conference between the Senate and House on S. 686 and H.R.
25 1465, oil spill legislation;

26 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature fully endorses and
27 urges the Senate and House conferees on S. 686 and H.R. 1465 to adopt the
28 consensus language for citizens' advisory committees in oil discharge
29 legislation now pending in the Congress; and be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska will work closely with the
2 U.S. Government, local citizens' advisory groups, and participating indus-
3 try groups to ensure the success of this pilot program.

4 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Walter B.
5 Jones, Chairman, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; the
6 Honorable Glenn M. Anderson, Chairman, House Committee on Public Works and
7 Transportation; the Honorable Quentin N. Burdick, Chairman, Senate Commit-
8 tee on Environment and Public Works; the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings,
9 Chairman, Science and Transportation; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and
10 the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
11 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.