

BY SEN. ZHAROFF, Eliason

1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 73

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Relating to safety measures applicable

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to oil tankers and other vessels, and to

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oil spill prevention and response.

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

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WHEREAS petroleum is a key element in our energy use, and significant
10 amounts of petroleum products are consumed yearly; and

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WHEREAS substantial amounts of crude oil are transported by tanker
12 into the West Coast's refining facilities every year; and

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WHEREAS substantial amounts of crude oil and refined products are
14 moved between Alaska's and California's ports and coastal facilities every
15 year; and

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WHEREAS continued reliance on petroleum as a major component of our
17 energy use is forecasted; and

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WHEREAS the marine movement of petroleum products involves both inter-
19 state and international transport; and

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WHEREAS the federal government has exclusive constitutional authority
21 to conduct foreign affairs and regulate interstate transport; and

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WHEREAS the federal government is currently considering or conducting
23 numerous activities related to marine safety;

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BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
25 the Congress and the President to make every effort to accomplish the
26 following:

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(1) require the United States Coast Guard to make a thorough
28 review of tanker design, size, construction, and operating procedures to
29 lessen the potential for human and mechanical error resulting in loss of

1 oil or tanker cargo, and revise requirements or standards where appropri-
2 ate;

3 (2) require the United States Coast Guard to evaluate coastal
4 tanker traffic and routes to ensure that tankers operate at a sufficient
5 distance from the coast line to minimize the potential for oil reaching the
6 shore line in case of an accidental spill;

7 (3) require the United States Coast Guard to evaluate alarm
8 interlocks on all automatic steering devices used on tankers that will
9 activate visual and audible warnings sufficient to warn the bridge watch
10 whenever manual operation of a steering system set in the automatic steer-
11 ing mode is attempted;

12 (4) ensure that the United States Coast Guard requires a minimum
13 of two licensed officers to be on the navigation bridge whenever a tanker
14 is closing with a port, navigating in difficult or congested waters, or
15 operating under reduced visibility;

16 (5) ensure that the United States Coast Guard implements new
17 certification and training requirements for maritime personnel that will
18 improve selection and training of maritime personnel for existing and
19 future vessels;

20 (6) support the United States Coast Guard in its efforts to
21 thoroughly review requirements for expanded vessel traffic systems (VTS)
22 throughout the country and provide adequate funding for a national VTS
23 program that includes uniform standards for operations and training of VTS
24 personnel and mandates participation by all commercial vessels, both United
25 States and foreign flag ships, in any federal VTS program;

26 (7) require that all vessels operating within the territorial
27 waters of the United States have personnel navigating the ship on the
28 bridge and radio operators who are able to communicate in English, the
29 internationally recognized language of the sea;

1 (8) establish a national marine safety and emergency response
2 inspection program for all tankers operated in United States territorial
3 waters and provide for state input and participation where appropriate;

4 (9) request the United States Senate to ratify the International
5 Convention on Standards of Training and Certification of Watchkeepers; and

6 (10) provide adequate funding for the United States Coast Guard
7 to carry out its mission as defined in federal legislation with regard to
8 oil spill prevention and response.

9 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
10 President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of
11 the United States and President of the Senate; the Honorable Samuel K.
12 Skinner, U.S. Secretary of Transportation; Admiral Paul A. Yost, Jr.,
13 Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, Chair of
14 the Senate Committee on Appropriations; the Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg,
15 Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and
16 Related Agencies; the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings, Chair of the Senate
17 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Honorable Thomas S.
18 Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Jamie L.
19 Whitten, Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations; the Honorable
20 William Lehman, Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transpor-
21 tation and Related Agencies; the Honorable Walter B. Jones, Chair of the
22 House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; the Honorable W.J.
23 (Billy) Tauzin, Chair of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Subcommit-
24 tee on Coast Guard and Navigation; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
25 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
26 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.