

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVES NAVARRE, Kubina, Brown, Ellis, Moyer, Ulmer, Koponen, Finkelstein**

**Introduced: 2/20/91**

**Referred: Resources, Judiciary**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to economic and scientific data developed as a result of the Exxon Valdez**  
**2 litigation.**

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

**4 WHEREAS** many parties to the civil and criminal actions arising out of the March 1989 oil spill  
**5 caused by the grounding of the Exxon Valdez have, as a result of the litigation, generated substantial**  
**6 economic and scientific studies of the results of the spill; and**

**7 WHEREAS** those studies are of great interest to the public, especially to those who were affected  
**8 by the spill, those studying the spill, and those trying to develop measures to mitigate possible large**  
**9 future spills; and**

**10 WHEREAS** as a matter of public policy, materials produced in litigation should be a matter of  
**11 public record, especially when governmental entities are litigants; and**

**12 WHEREAS** the Alaska Supreme Court ruled in Anchorage School District v. Anchorage Daily  
**13 News, 779 P.2d 1191 (Alaska 1989), that the public records disclosure statutes, AS 09.25.110 -**  
**14 09.25.125, overrode a governmental entity's attempt to make a litigation settlement confidential, thus**  
**15 making it likely that any confidentiality provisions in an Exxon Valdez settlement would be ruled**  
**16 illegal;**

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges that any settlement of the civil or  
2 criminal litigation arising from the Exxon Valdez spill provide that all economic and scientific studies  
3 generated by the litigation be open to public inspection and not be treated as confidential material.

4 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard Thornburgh, Attorney General  
5 of the United States; the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr., U.S. Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable  
6 Samuel K. Skinner, U.S. Secretary of Transportation; the Honorable William Reilly, Administrator of  
7 the United States Environmental Protection Agency; Admiral J. William Kime, Commandant of the  
8 United States Coast Guard; the Honorable Wevley Shea, United States Attorney for the District of  
9 Alaska; the Honorable Russell Holland, United States District Judge for the District of Alaska; and  
10 Lawrence G. Rawl, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the Exxon Corporation.