

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON OIL AND GAS

Introduced: 3/27/91

Referred: House Special Committee on Oil and Gas, Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to regulation of underground petroleum storage tanks.

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

3 WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted regulations in 1986 that
4 extensively regulated underground petroleum storage tanks; and

5 WHEREAS these EPA regulations require all owners and operators to demonstrate a minimum
6 of \$1,000,000 in financial responsibility for pollution cleanup, with owners of 1 to 12 tanks required to
7 meet this requirement by October 26, 1991; and

8 WHEREAS most owners and operators who have any degree of contamination on their property
9 are unable to meet the financial responsibility requirements, thus facing fines of up to \$10,000 a day,
10 which would have a particularly severe effect on small businesses; and

11 WHEREAS the Sixteenth Alaska State Legislature demonstrated a good faith intent to comply
12 with the EPA regulations by enacting AS 46.03.360 - 46.03.450, which regulate underground petroleum
13 storage tanks and provide financial assistance to owners of underground petroleum storage tanks to help
14 them meet all the requirements of the EPA regulations; and

15 WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has demonstrated an intent
16 to assume responsibility for regulation of underground petroleum storage tanks in this state; and

17 WHEREAS owners and operators of storage tanks in Alaska, like in many states, are still in the

1 process of assessing the extent of their pollution problems and the state is still in the process of
2 determining the best course of action to protect both the state's groundwater and its local economy;

3 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Environmental
4 Protection Agency to delay the implementation of federal regulations requiring a minimum of \$1,000,000
5 in financial responsibility for private storage tank owners for at least one year in Alaska in order to allow
6 owners and operators of the tanks adequate time to complete site assessment and to address potential
7 pollution problems so that they can meet the financial responsibility requirements.

8 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to William K. Reilly, Administrator of the United States
9 Environmental Protection Agency; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
10 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
11 delegation in Congress.