

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 51
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES KOPONEN, Ulmer, Brown

Introduced: 5/15/91
Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging President Bush and the Alaska congressional delegation to take action to halt the
2 testing of nuclear weapons.

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

4 WHEREAS the Cold War is over, democratic systems are emerging throughout Eastern Europe
5 and the Soviet Union, and a continuation of the United States/Soviet Union nuclear arms race is no
6 longer justified; and

7 WHEREAS, although the United States and the Soviet Union already possess over 30,000
8 nuclear weapons between them, both countries continue to explode nuclear warheads underground in
9 order to develop new, more dangerous nuclear weapons; and

10 WHEREAS these tens of thousands of nuclear weapons are deployed in enormously complex
11 systems of missiles, planes, ships, computers, satellites, and people, which may eventually result in their
12 accidental or deliberate use; and

13 WHEREAS nuclear test explosions by the United States and the Soviet Union encourage the
14 spread of nuclear weapons to other countries and seriously hamper efforts to curb the proliferation of
15 nuclear weapons; and

16 WHEREAS nuclear weapons are not weapons at all since they cannot be safely used to fight a

1 war, but are instruments of terrorism and genocide, which this nation abhors; and

2 **WHEREAS** radioactive contamination resulting from nuclear test explosions has left several
3 areas of the United States, the Soviet Union, the South Pacific, and China unfit for human, animal, or
4 plant life; and

5 **WHEREAS** the Soviet Union unilaterally stopped all nuclear testing for 18 months beginning
6 August 6, 1985, stopped again October 19, 1989, and has conducted only one test, which occurred on
7 October 24, 1990, since then; and

8 **WHEREAS** an opportunity to ban nuclear test explosions in 118 countries occurred January 7 -
9 18, 1991, in New York when a Test Ban Treaty Conference was held to change the 1963 Partial Test
10 Ban Treaty into a comprehensive test ban treaty that would ban underground explosions as well as
11 atmospheric testing; and

12 **WHEREAS** 75 nations voted to continue the Test Ban Treaty Conference, while only the United
13 States and the United Kingdom voted against it; and

14 **WHEREAS** the 118 parties to the 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty, which needs to be renewed in
15 1995, have linked their continued adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to the passage of
16 a comprehensive test ban treaty; and

17 **WHEREAS** in 1986 the voters of Alaska approved an initiative that supported a mutual and
18 verifiable freeze on nuclear weapons; and

19 **WHEREAS** the previous United States Congress considered Joint State-House Resolution 287,
20 which urged President Bush to join the Soviet Union in a mutual and verifiable suspension of nuclear
21 test explosions and to work with urgency to change the 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty into a comprehen-
22 sive prohibition against nuclear testing;

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges President Bush to

24 (1) take the steps necessary for the United States to join the Soviet Union in a mutual
25 and verifiable suspension of all nuclear test explosions for all time; and

26 (2) cooperate with other nations of the world in implementing a comprehensive test ban
27 treaty; and be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature calls upon the members of the Alaska
29 delegation in Congress to support future congressional resolutions that encourage a comprehensive
30 prohibition against nuclear testing.

31 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
32 States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate;

1 the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable George J.
2 Mitchell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S.
3 House of Representatives; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.
4 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Con-
5 gress; and to the mayor and the governing body of each municipality in the state.