

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 51 (STATE AFFAIRS)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 2/5/92**

**Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES KOPONEN, Ulmer, Brown**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 Urging President Bush and the Alaska congressional delegation to take action to halt the  
2 testing, further manufacture, and proliferation of nuclear weapons and urging President  
3 Bush to take the steps necessary to ensure compliance with nuclear treaties by all nations  
4 and to negotiate a comprehensive test ban treaty.

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

6 **WHEREAS** the Cold War is over, democratic systems are emerging throughout Eastern Europe  
7 and the former Soviet Union, and a continuation of the nuclear arms race is no longer justified; and

8 **WHEREAS**, although the United States and the Commonwealth of Independent States already  
9 possess over 30,000 nuclear weapons between them, the Bush administration continues to explode  
10 nuclear warheads underground in order to develop new, more dangerous nuclear weapons; and

11 **WHEREAS** tens of thousands of nuclear weapons in the republics that constituted the former  
12 Soviet Union are deployed in enormously complex systems of missiles, planes, ships, computers,  
13 satellites, and people, which may eventually result in their accidental or deliberate use; and

14 **WHEREAS**, though nuclear weapons have served the purpose of deterrence, thermonuclear  
15 devices cannot be used safely as a weapon of war but can be used as instruments of terrorism and  
16 genocide, which this nation abhors; and

1           **WHEREAS** nuclear weapons technology has spread to nations that are not presently capable of  
2 sustaining rational and predictable military policy; and

3           **WHEREAS** the proliferation of nuclear technology exposes all nations of the world to terrorism  
4 by governments that may be willing to employ weapons of mass destruction in this manner; and

5           **WHEREAS** continued nuclear test explosions by the United States encourage the spread of  
6 nuclear weapons and seriously hamper efforts to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons; and

7           **WHEREAS** radioactive contamination resulting from nuclear test explosions has left several  
8 areas of the United States, Asia, and the South Pacific unfit for human, animal, or plant life; and

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

12           **WHEREAS** an opportunity to ban nuclear test explosions in 118 countries occurred January 7 -  
13 18, 1991, in New York when the Test Ban Treaty Conference was held to amend the 1963 Partial Test  
14 Ban Treaty into a comprehensive test ban treaty that would ban underground explosions as well as  
15 atmospheric testing; and

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

18           **WHEREAS** Russian President Boris Yeltsin has called on President Bush to halt all nuclear  
19 weapons testing and to negotiate a comprehensive test ban treaty; and

20           **WHEREAS** the 118 parties to the 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty, which needs to be renewed in  
21 1995, have linked their continued adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to the passage of  
22 a comprehensive test ban treaty; and

23           **WHEREAS** in 1986 the voters of Alaska approved an initiative that made the promotion of a  
24 mutual and verifiable freeze on nuclear weapons official state policy; and

25           **WHEREAS** the United States Congress is considering two bills, S. 2064 and H.R. 3636, that  
26 would reduce funding for nuclear weapons tests for 12 months as long as the republics that constituted  
27 the former Soviet Union do not test; and

28           **WHEREAS** a comprehensive test ban treaty is the first logical step toward the ultimate tripartite  
29 goal of a prohibition of the further manufacture of nuclear weapons by all nations, a cessation of the  
30 deployment of nuclear weapons by all nations, and the dismantling of nuclear weapons by all nations;

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

32           (1) take the steps necessary for the United States to join in a mutual and verifiable

1 suspension of all nuclear test explosions for all time;

2 (2) actively negotiate a comprehensive test ban treaty with other nations of the world;

3 (3) work to prohibit the export of nuclear weapons hardware, technology, and expertise  
4 from nuclear-capable nations; and

5 (4) take the steps necessary to ensure compliance with nuclear treaties, including the  
6 enforcement of existing treaties and the imposition of sanctions against nations that do not abide by the  
7 tenets of existing and subsequent nuclear disarmament treaties; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature calls upon the members of the Alaska  
9 delegation in Congress to support present and future congressional resolutions and bills that encourage  
10 a comprehensive prohibition against the testing, manufacture, and proliferation of nuclear weapons.

11 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United  
12 States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate;  
13 the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable George J.  
14 Mitchell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S.  
15 House of Representatives; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.  
16 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Con-  
17 gress; and to the mayor and the governing body of each municipality in the state.