

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY SENATORS ZHAROFF, Eliason, Collins**

**Introduced: 4/26/91**  
**Referred: Resources**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to the proposed annual federal fee for recreational vessels.**

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

**3 WHEREAS** the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 requires the United States Secretary  
**4 of Transportation to establish and collect an annual fee for recreational vessels; and**

**5 WHEREAS** the proposed fee is \$25 for vessels greater than 16 feet to 20 feet in length, \$35 for  
**6 vessels greater than 20 feet to 27 feet in length, \$50 for vessels greater than 27 feet to 40 feet in length,**  
**7 and \$100 for vessels greater than 40 feet in length; and**

**8 WHEREAS** the fee will be collected by the United States Coast Guard during federal fiscal years  
**9 1991 through 1995; and**

**10 WHEREAS** the fee applies to recreational vessels over 16 feet long that are operated on all  
**11 navigable waters of the United States where "the Coast Guard has a presence," broadly defined as**  
**12 "within Coast Guard district boundaries"; and**

**13 WHEREAS** information about the fee was published in the Federal Register as a Notice of  
**14 Proposed Rulemaking so all interested parties would have an opportunity to comment on the procedures**  
**15 for implementing and collecting the fees; and**

**16 WHEREAS** the purpose of the fee is to "require recreational boaters to share in the cost of

1 existing Coast Guard programs, including search and rescue, boating safety, and aids to navigation...";  
2 and

3 **WHEREAS** the fee will be deposited in the United States Treasury and, even though it will be  
4 attributed to Coast Guard activities, there is no guarantee it will be used for Coast Guard programs; and

5 **WHEREAS** the fee is a new general tax on recreational vessels and an attempt by the federal  
6 government to raise new revenue; and

7 **WHEREAS** the revenue from the fee will not be used to supplement existing programs, but to  
8 replace funds that will be diverted to other purposes; and

9 **WHEREAS** the federal government already collects a motorboat fuel tax levied on the  
10 approximately 6,000,000 licensed boats in the United States, and this tax was increased five cents a  
11 gallon as part of the 1990 budget reconciliation process; and

12 **WHEREAS** search and rescue, boating safety, and aids to navigation are vital public services  
13 that should not be subject to user fees; and

14 **WHEREAS** the fee will be an undue burden on recreational vessel owners and will provide them  
15 with no direct benefits; and

16 **WHEREAS** Representative Robert W. Davis of Michigan introduced H.R. 534 in the U.S. House  
17 of Representatives and Senator John B. Breaux of Louisiana introduced S. 843 in the U.S. Senate for  
18 the purpose of repealing the annual fee for recreational vessels;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United States  
20 Congress to repeal the annual fee for recreational vessels before it is implemented; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation  
22 is respectfully requested to delay the adoption of regulations implementing the recreational vessel annual  
23 fee until the Congress has reconsidered the annual fee.

24 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the  
25 United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S.  
26 House of Representatives; the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings, Chair of the Committee on Commerce,  
27 Science, and Transportation of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg, Chair of the  
28 Subcommittee on Transportation and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the U.S.  
29 Senate; the Honorable Walter B. Jones, Chair of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of  
30 the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable W. J. (Billy) Tauzin, Chair of the Subcommittee on  
31 Coast Guard and Navigation of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the U.S. House of  
32 Representatives; the Honorable William Lehman, Chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation and

1 Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the U.S. House of Representatives; the  
2 Honorable John B. Breaux, U.S. Senator; the Honorable Robert W. Davis, U.S. Representative; the  
3 Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation; and to the Honorable  
4 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.  
5 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.