

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30 (O&G)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON OIL AND GAS

Offered: 5/10/91

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATOR ZHAROFF

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to federal oil leases in the North Aleutian Basin section of Bristol Bay.

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

3 WHEREAS the state supports the prudent and orderly development of the state's outer
4 continental shelf oil and gas resources in an environmentally acceptable manner; and

5 WHEREAS, with the exception of the North Aleutian Basin section of Bristol Bay, the state has
6 not requested a ban or moratorium on oil and gas leasing and drilling on any of Alaska's outer
7 continental shelf planning areas; and

8 WHEREAS the state does not receive any significant revenue from outer continental shelf oil
9 and gas lease sales; and

10 WHEREAS an annual average of 45,000,000 to 60,000,000 adult salmon migrate through the
11 North Aleutian Basin to the Bristol Bay river system, and an annual average of 1,000,000,000 salmon
12 smolt out-migrate through the North Aleutian Basin to ocean feeding grounds; and

13 WHEREAS the entire North Aleutian Basin is within an area defined by the International Pacific
14 Halibut Commission as a halibut nursery conservation area; and

15 WHEREAS the current federal oil drilling leases in the North Aleutian Basin are located in a
16 vital red king crab habitat area; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Bristol Bay region is considered to be one of the world's richest fisheries and
2 is home to numerous migratory waterfowl, sea birds, and marine mammals that are important to
3 subsistence as well as to the North Aleutian Basin ecosystem; and

4 **WHEREAS** Bristol Bay region domestic commercial fisheries for salmon, crab, herring, pollock,
5 halibut, yellowfin sole, rock sole, cod, and other groundfish have an average annual wholesale value of
6 approximately \$1,000,000,000 and employ over 10,000 people annually; and

7 **WHEREAS** the state recognized the economic importance of the Bristol Bay area when it set
8 aside the Bristol Bay fisheries reserve; and

9 **WHEREAS** currently there is a moratorium on oil and gas leasing in the North Aleutian Basin;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS** there is an element of risk in all oil and gas exploration, development, and
12 transportation;

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature finds the existing benefits to the people
14 of Alaska and the nation from the Bristol Bay fisheries far outweigh the federal government's need to
15 explore the region for oil and gas; and be it

16 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the development of a federal
17 plan to repurchase the oil and gas leases that were sold in North Aleutian Basin Lease Sale 92 or to
18 allow the lessees to credit the cost of the leases towards other federal outer continental shelf sales; and
19 be it

20 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor
21 of Alaska, the appropriate federal officials, and the appropriate federal legislators to enter into
22 discussions for the purpose of reaching an agreement on a repurchase or credit plan for the leases that
23 resulted from Lease Sale 92; and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that a Lease Sale 92 repurchase or
25 credit plan should include a provision that the leases that are repurchased or included in a credit plan
26 may not be resold; and be it

27 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United States
28 Congress and the United States Secretary of the Interior to continue the current moratorium on oil and
29 gas leasing in the North Aleutian Basin outer continental shelf planning area and implement the
30 repurchase or credit plan.

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 and Chair of the Senate
2 Committee on Appropriations; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of
3 Representatives; the Honorable George J. Mitchell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable
4 Richard A. Gephardt, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert Dole,
5 Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert H. Michel, Minority Leader of the U.S. House
6 of Representatives; the Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and
7 Resources; the Honorable Jamie L. Whitten, Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations; the
8 Honorable George Miller, Chair of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; the Honorable
9 Sidney R. Yates, Chair of the Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, House Committee on
10 Appropriations; the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr., Secretary of the Interior; Dr. John A. Knauss,
11 Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and Barry Williamson, Director,
12 Minerals Management Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski,
13 United States Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, United States Representative, members of the
14 Alaska delegation in Congress.