

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE ECONOMIC TASK FORCE

Introduced: 3/15/93

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to establishing the coal policy of the state.

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

3 WHEREAS a healthy future for Alaska's coal industry depends on the perception
4 among foreign and domestic buyers that the state supports coal development; and

5 WHEREAS a vibrant coal industry is a benefit to the state and its citizens; and

6 WHEREAS the export potential of Alaska coal and the maintenance of the coal
7 industry's current small share of international coal exports are of vital importance to the future
8 success of Alaska's coal industry; and

9 WHEREAS competition against Alaska coal exports is international rather than
10 domestic in nature; and

11 WHEREAS in-state domestic use of coal can make a very important contribution to
12 long-term power supplies and power supply costs; and

13 WHEREAS a vibrant coal industry will enhance receipts to the state in the form of
14 mining license and corporate income taxes and lease rentals and royalties; and

15 WHEREAS the export of Alaska's coal will substantially enhance the gross state
16 product and will have a positive effect on the trade balance of the United States;

17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it is the official policy of the

1 state to foster the responsible development and expansion of its domestic and export coal
2 industry; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the state shall exercise all prudent and expeditious
4 means to maintain and expand Alaska's current and future coal production and export market
5 share; and be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature shall work diligently with
7 the Governor and the Governor's administration to identify unwarranted impediments to the
8 growth of Alaska's coal industry and shall develop strategies to eliminate or mitigate the
9 adverse effects of these impediments; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the state, in recognition of the benefits of a vibrant coal
11 industry, shall endeavor to maintain stable royalty and coal industry taxation policies; and be
12 it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that
14 the Governor and the Governor's administration, particularly the Department of Commerce
15 and Economic Development, assist the Legislature in taking a leadership role in the planning
16 and evaluation of existing infrastructure and the need for the development of new
17 infrastructure and in the review of transportation modes and rates in an effort to maximize
18 efficient capacity utilization and reduce unit costs; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
20 Governor to assist the Legislature in seeking a waiver to the Jones Act for bulk commodities
21 of low unit value such as coal; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
23 Governor and the administration to assist it in fostering commercial demonstrations of new
24 coal technologies that hold the potential to meet the state's energy needs and that can produce
25 value-added products from Alaska coal; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that it is in the best interests of the state for the state to
27 maintain control over the coal regulatory program, to adequately fund the management and
28 enforcement of the program, and to continue to review and update the coal regulatory program
29 to ensure that state primacy in coal regulation is maintained.

30 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor, and to the Honorable Ted
31 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
32 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.