

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 57**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVE SANDERS**

**Introduced: 2/14/94**

**Referred: Transportation, Labor & Commerce**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Requesting that the United States Coast Guard require licensed marine pilots on**  
2 **domestic tug boats when towing barges of less than 10,000 gross tons that are**  
3 **carrying petroleum products or hazardous cargoes on the inland water of the**  
4 **United States.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** the United States Coast Guard does not require that licensed marine pilots  
7 **be on board domestic tug boats when they are towing barges of less than 10,000 gross tons**  
8 **regardless of the cargo being carried; and**

9 **WHEREAS** 1,400,000 gallons of petrochemicals were spilled into New York Harbor  
10 **and the Hudson River from 656 spills in 1990; and**

11 **WHEREAS**, in September, 1993, the captain of a tug boat towing a barge became lost  
12 **at night in unfamiliar water near Mobile, Alabama, collided with a railroad bridge, and caused**  
13 **three locomotives and four passenger cars to plunge into the river, killing 47 people; and**

14 **WHEREAS** the recent spill of 600,000 gallons of oil onto the beaches of San Juan,  
15 **Puerto Rico, is just the latest in a series of serious accidents involving tug boats towing**  
16 **barges; and**

1           **WHEREAS** the Kuskokwim River of Alaska, unlike the other major rivers of the  
2 nation, is primitive in terms of the navigational aids available to guide vessels; and

3           **WHEREAS** there are no dredged channels or government issued charts for the  
4 Kuskokwim River system; and

5           **WHEREAS** tug boats towing barges containing petroleum products or hazardous cargo  
6 often ply the Kuskokwim River system; and

7           **WHEREAS** the Kuskokwim River flows through one of the most important wildlife  
8 refuges in North America;

9           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United  
10 States Coast Guard to require that domestic tug boats on the inland water of the United States,  
11 and especially on the Kuskokwim River system in Alaska, have a licensed marine pilot on  
12 board when they are towing barges of less than 10,000 gross tons containing petroleum  
13 products or hazardous cargoes.

14           **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the  
15 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President  
16 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate;  
17 the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; Admiral J.  
18 William Kine, Commandant, United States Coast Guard; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens  
19 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.  
20 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.