

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS LINCOLN, Ellis, Little

Introduced: 3/31/93
Referred: STA, RES, JUD

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to the alleged dumping of nuclear waste by the Russian military industry**
2 **in Arctic waters and the need for the United States to work cooperatively with**
3 **the present Russian government in investigating these allegations.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** the evidence is becoming more substantiated that over several decades the
6 government of the U.S.S.R. used the Arctic Ocean as a dumping ground for obsolete and
7 damaged nuclear reactors and other radioactive material; and

8 **WHEREAS** the water of the Arctic Ocean eventually circulates throughout the
9 Northern Hemisphere, touching the continents of Asia, Europe, and North America; and

10 **WHEREAS** the water of the Arctic Ocean interacts with bodies of water off the coast
11 of Alaska, such as the Beaufort Sea, the Chukchi Sea, and the Bering Sea; and

12 **WHEREAS** the water off the coast of Alaska contains some of the richest fishery
13 resources in the world, contributing during the last decade approximately 50 percent of the
14 United States' aquatic harvests and 40 percent of the total ex-vessel value of the seafood; and

15 **WHEREAS** the seafood industry is the largest private, basic industry employer in
16 Alaska, providing more than 77,000 seasonal jobs, comparable to 33,000 year-round direct and

1 indirect jobs; and

2 **WHEREAS** the coastlines surrounding the Arctic Ocean have been home for thousands
3 of years to the different Inuit people of the North, including the Yupik, the Siberian Yupik,
4 and the Inupiat, with much of their subsistence lifestyle dependent upon the bounty of the sea;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS** the water and land of the Arctic comprise a delicate environment that is
7 home to many species of fish, birds, and mammals, including migratory birds from throughout
8 the Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
10 President of the United States to require the Environmental Protection Agency to pursue a
11 thorough investigation of this potentially hazardous situation, including baseline studies and
12 sample monitoring for ocean radioactivity; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
14 President of the United States to initiate joint cooperation with the Russian government in
15 assessing the level of Arctic dumping of radioactive materials, the present and future dangers
16 posed by these dumps, and the steps necessary to ensure that any radioactive contamination
17 is safely contained.

18 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
19 United States; Carol M. Browner, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and
20 to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
21 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.