

HCR

8

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE NAVARRE

Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-3779

March 10, 1991

TO: Representative Cliff Davidson, Chair, House Resources Committee

FROM: Representative Mike Navarre *Mike*

SUBJECT: Sponsor Statement for HJR 25 & HCR 8, resolutions relating to the Exxon Valdez settlement data.

.....

House Joint Resolution 25 and House Current Resolution 8 are essentially the same in content. The only difference in the resolutions is in the last paragraph where directions are given to whom is to receive the resolutions. The Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature in Rule 49 . pecifies the type of resolution and the appropriate manner in which the resolution is to be handled.

The essence of both resolutions is to require that the economic and scientific data collected from the studies of Exxon Valdez tragedy be released. It is unthinkable that some entity, individual, or organization would desire to lock-up data from an ecological mishap. The economic and scientific data is relevant and needed to avoid future mishaps or, if another mishap does occur society will be better able to handle the diasters aftermath.

Why does the Legislature need to ensure the release of the scientific and economic data from the Exxon spill?

1. Other entities that may litigate in the future may find the data useful.
2. To ensure proper resource management the data would be useful in determining the evolutionary happenings in the waters of Alaska.
3. Both the U.S. Congress and the Alaska Legislature need to know the effects on the marine environment, in order to determine the future of drilling and transport of oil in the Alaskan environment.
4. Long term policy involving the use double-hull tankers.
5. Release of the data to only Exxon should be unacceptable.
6. The public paid directly or indirectly for these studies, therefore it is unacceptable not to allow public access to the data generated as a result of the Exxon spill.

DISTRICT 5

34824 K-Beach Road • Soldotna, Alaska 99660 • (907) 262-7848



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE NAVARRE

Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-3779

7. To properly continue the restoration of Prince William Sound and other areas of the State data on what has been accomplished needs to be available.

It is difficult to see the downside of these two resolutions, but in order to be overly cautious one could consider the potential legal exposure that the State may have. The balance between blocking access and open information to any data in a free society must be carefully weighed as to its outcomes.

DISTRICT 5

34824 K-Beach Road • Soldotna, Alaska 99603 • (907) 262-7842

20

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER