



# Alaska State Legislature

1973

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Requesting the Department of the Interior to refrain from appealing the United States District Court, District of Alaska, decision regarding possession of the lower Cook Inlet submerged lands.

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

WHEREAS last year the State of Alaska won a favorable ruling in the United States District Court, District of Alaska, on the state's claim of ownership and possession of the oil-rich lands lying under lower Cook Inlet; and

WHEREAS an appeal of that decision by the United States Department of the Interior would place the State of Alaska in grave financial jeopardy because the state would lose royalties, tax revenues and bonus bid income from the lands while litigation dragged on over a period of years; and

WHEREAS the trans-Alaska pipeline, on which the state has been relying to generate much needed economic benefits and which is needed by the country as a whole to meet its energy needs, appears to be four or five years away from operation; and

WHEREAS the time-consuming appeals through the federal courts on the Cook Inlet decision, coupled with the status of the pipeline, will result in a hiatus of economic insecurity in Alaska and an energy shortage in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, in light of the acute energy crisis currently plaguing the United States, and which by all indications will continue, it does not make sense to tie up the potential petroleum production of the lower Cook Inlet for a long period of time in a costly appeal which the federal government may well lose in the end;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Eighth Alaska Legislature that the United States Department of the Interior is respectfully requested and urged to refrain from appealing the decision of the United States District Court, District of Alaska, granting possession of the submerged lands in lower Cook Inlet to the State of Alaska.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior; to the Honorable Richard G. Kleindienst, U. S. Attorney General; to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Mineral Resources in the Department of the Interior; to the Director, Office of Oil and Gas in the Department of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.