

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1977

Source

Legislative  
Resolve No.

CSHR 29

51



Relating to federal oil spill liability legislation.

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

WHEREAS the United States House of Representatives is presently considering comprehensive oil spill liability legislation which includes a provision for preempting state oil spill liability laws; and

WHEREAS Alaska recognizes the great need for comprehensive federal legislation in this critical area to replace the presently inadequate and incomplete liability provisions of present federal law; and

WHEREAS oil spill liability law is an essential means for states to encourage safe oil tanker operation, especially considering the great preponderance of oil spills which are caused by human error; and

WHEREAS Alaska's oil spill liability law provides unique incentives for safe tanker operation; and

WHEREAS a limitation on oil spill removal liability as proposed in H.R. 776 and similar legislation is an arbitrary limit which may not cover the cleanup costs of accidents resulting from present petroleum operations in Alaska nor the probable future petroleum operations in offshore, ice-covered regions; and

WHEREAS Alaska's greatest resource wealth is her renewable resources; and

WHEREAS these renewable resources should be protected to the greatest degree possible from potential damage from nonrenewable resource development;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the Congress of the United States not preempt the several states from maintaining oil spill liability law which encourages safe petroleum operations; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the U. S. Congress to allow the test of time to determine whether state liability legislation is indeed a complementary component to federal comprehensive oil spill liability law.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable John M. Murphy, Chairman of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.