

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1977

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

HJR 11

8



Requesting the U. S. Senate Committee on Commerce to hold a hearing in Alaska on oil tanker safety.

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

WHEREAS the initiation of North Slope oil production is expected to begin later this year; and

WHEREAS an oil tanker transportation system is an integral part of the Congressionally approved transportation system which will transport Alaska's North Slope oil from Prudhoe Bay to West Coast destinations, and oil tanker transport will be an integral part of any and all oil development upon Alaska's outer continental shelf; and

WHEREAS oil tankers servicing the trans-Alaska pipeline terminus will transit near the initial Alaska OCS lease area and some of these tankers are expected to approach 200,000 d.w.t.; and

WHEREAS the potential surplus of oil on the U.S. West Coast may result in Alaskan oil being rerouted to foreign destinations, and such foreign shipment would likely involve oil tankers registered in foreign countries; and

WHEREAS the several recent accidents in United States waters involving oil tankers which fly flags of convenience clearly demonstrate the potential danger of some foreign-registered oil tankers; and

WHEREAS, of all ocean industries, oil tankers have been demonstrated to be the single greatest source of oil pollution in the oceans, and several studies, including those accomplished by the Council on Environmental Quality, Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Land Management, and the State of Alaska's Pipeline Coordinator, demonstrate a high probability of both

chronic and acute oil pollution resulting from both transportation of North Slope oil and development of OCS regions of the North Gulf of Alaska; and

WHEREAS Alaska's Arctic environment would not easily recover from the impact of either one-time massive spills or continuous chronic pollution; and

WHEREAS Alaska's presently pristine waters support some of the major fisheries of the world and irreparable harm could be done to those fisheries by a catastrophic oil spill; and

WHEREAS several agencies and officials of both state and federal government are highly critical of present U.S. Coast Guard regulations governing design and operation of oil tankers as being outdated and ineffective; and

WHEREAS Senator Warren Magnuson, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, is presently conducting hearings on the issue of oil tanker safety;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce consider holding a hearing in the State of Alaska during its present deliberations on oil tanker safety.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Warren G. Magnuson, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce; 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.