

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1989

Source

Legislative  
Resolve No.

SCS HJR 32(Res)

26



Relating to oil and gas drilling on the North Aleutian Basin Outer Continental Shelf.

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

WHEREAS the state fully supports the prudent and orderly development of the state's outer continental shelf oil and gas resources in an environmentally acceptable manner; and

WHEREAS the state has been very responsive to the nation's need to decrease its dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS there are presently 10 Alaskan planning areas on the Federal Outer Continental Shelf leasing schedule, encompassing approximately 480,000,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, with the exception of the North Aleutian Basin, the state has not requested a ban or moratorium on oil and gas leasing and drilling on any of Alaska's outer continental shelf planning areas; and

WHEREAS the North Aleutian Basin lease sale area has relatively low hydrocarbon potential; and

WHEREAS over 1,300,000 marine mammals inhabit or migrate through the North Aleutian Basin area; and

WHEREAS virtually the entire world's population of black brant and emperor geese stage in nearby coastal areas during the fall migration;  
and

WHEREAS an annual average of 45,000,000 to 60,000,000 adult salmon have migrated through the North Aleutian Basin each year since 1978; and

WHEREAS domestic Bristol Bay fisheries have an average

wholesale value of \$250,000,000 and employ over 10,000 people annually; and

WHEREAS the Bristol Bay area coastal habitats and fish and wildlife resources are highly vulnerable to oil spill damage and disturbance; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska rural population depends heavily on commercial and subsistence use of these fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS significant gaps exist in understanding the distribution, abundance, and population dynamics associated with many of these renewable resources; and

WHEREAS industry has failed in its efforts to contain or control the catastrophic oil spill in Prince William Sound even under favorable meteorological and oceanographic conditions; and

WHEREAS industry has not demonstrated the ability to adequately contain and clean up oil spills under the extreme meteorological and oceanographic conditions common in Bristol Bay; and

WHEREAS the people of the state, acting through their duly elected representatives, have delayed oil and gas leasing in adjacent state waters; and

WHEREAS by delaying leasing in state waters and delaying drilling in federal waters in the Bristol Bay area, the opportunity exists to gain additional knowledge and develop additional technologies that will protect fish and wildlife resources in the presence of oil and gas activities, and further assess potential impacts to these resources from the presence of oil and gas activities; and

WHEREAS, given the facts stated above, it is not in the nation's or the state's best interest to permit drilling in the North Aleutian Basin at this time;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior to suspend and reevaluate the approval or permitting of any drilling, exploration activity, or other development on the North Aleutian Basin Outer Continental Shelf; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully requests the President to suspend Lease Sale 92 and to include oil and gas leasing in Bristol Bay and the North Aleutian Basin to the work assigned to the President's Special Task Force set up to measure the potential for environmental damage in the offshore areas of California and Florida, including the potential for a buy-back of those leases; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully requests the Congress of the United States to prohibit the expenditure by the Department of the Interior of any money for the conduct of leasing or the approval of permitting of any drilling or other exploration activity on the North Aleutian Basin Outer Continental Shelf at this time.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable

George Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the United States Senate; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tem of the United States Senate; the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable James D. Watkins, Secretary of Energy; the Honorable Richard G. Darman, Director, Office of Management and Budget; the Honorable William K. Reilly, Director, Environmental Protection Administration; William E. Evans, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and Robert E. Kallman, Director, Minerals Management Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, United States Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, United States Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.