

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1989

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

CSHJR 11(Trsp)

48



Relating to Congressional reauthorization of the Clean Air Act.

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

WHEREAS the people of the state are committed to healthful air for residents of the state to breathe; and

WHEREAS the air in Anchorage and Fairbanks periodically contains levels of carbon monoxide during cold weather conditions that exceed air quality standards; and

WHEREAS carbon monoxide presents a health risk to humans because it robs the body of oxygen and is a particular health risk to the elderly, infants, pregnant women, and individuals with chronic heart and lung diseases; and

WHEREAS carbon monoxide is a product of inefficient combustion and at least 90 percent of the carbon monoxide in the air of Anchorage and Fairbanks results from automobile exhausts during the cold winter months; and

WHEREAS the carbon monoxide levels in Anchorage and Fairbanks can be reduced by the adoption of two primary strategies: by reducing the number of automobile miles traveled during the cold winter months and by reducing the amount of carbon monoxide each vehicle emits; and

WHEREAS the expanded use of mass transit and ride-sharing will reduce the number of automobile miles traveled, thus reducing the amount of carbon monoxide emitted; and

WHEREAS the Anchorage and Fairbanks municipal governments are presently restricted by Federal law in their ability to use Federal gas tax funds to expand mass transit and other more efficient transportation measures; and

WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency now certifies new vehicles for carbon monoxide emissions at temperatures ranging between 68 and 86 degrees Fahrenheit, instead of a range more appropriate to colder climates; and

WHEREAS a cold temperature certification program could reduce actual carbon monoxide emissions by as much as 46 percent; and

WHEREAS the Congress of the United States is now in the process of reauthorizing and amending the Clean Air Act;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Congress to support the reauthorization of the Clean Air Act with amendments noted in this resolution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Congress to increase mass transit funding as a means of mitigating the adverse effects of transportation related air pollution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the reauthorization of the Clean Air Act require the Environmental Protection Agency to certify motor vehicles for carbon monoxide emission compliance at 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.