

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

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SJR 58

62



Endorsing a proposal in pending federal legislation to establish citizens' advisory committees to assist in the development and implementation of oil discharge contingency response plans.

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

WHEREAS the grounding of the Exxon Valdez and the disastrous oil spill that occurred demonstrates the dangers of continued oil shipments through state waters without more effective oil spill prevention and response capability in place; and

WHEREAS prevention and response capability now being installed by the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company cannot be said to have sufficiently reduced the risks of another disaster until independent risk assessments are made and necessary standards for prevention and response are understood, established, and met; and

WHEREAS prevention and response capability now being installed by the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company for the tankers carrying trans-Alaska pipeline oil through the waters of Prince William Sound cannot be fully implemented without review by concerned, and potentially affected, citizens using their intimate knowledge of the region; and

WHEREAS an active citizens' effort to assess risks and to participate in the installation and operation of a spill prevention and response plan for Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet can help ensure that the knowledge and resources of citizens of adjacent communities are available in the case of another emergency; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature desires to see the creation in law of independent and properly funded regional citizens' advisory committees for Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet to monitor and advise on oil discharge prevention and response, port operations, and environmental effects of terminal operations and marine oil transportation; and

WHEREAS, in cooperation with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, citizens of Prince William Sound and adjacent areas have formed a regional citizens' advisory committee to advise Alyeska on the oil spill and prevention response plan being developed for Prince William Sound; and

WHEREAS the Regional Citizens' Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives of Kodiak, Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak Island Village Mayors, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Valdez, Seward, Homer, Cordova, Whittier, Seldovia, the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Association, Cordova District Fishermen United, Chugach Alaska Corporation, and the National Wildlife Federation; and

WHEREAS consensus legislative language for a citizens' advisory committee has been developed among the community representatives and fishing industry groups that are represented on the Regional Citizens' Advisory Committee, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, and other community groups, building upon the amendment contained in Title V of S. 686 that has been passed by the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS this consensus language was passed by the House of Representatives in H.R. 2459, the Coast Guard Authorization Bill, and will be considered by a conference between the Senate and House on S. 686 and H.R. 1465, oil spill legislation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature fully endorses and urges the Senate and House conferees on S. 686 and H.R. 1465 to adopt the consensus language for citizens' advisory committees in oil discharge legislation now pending in the Congress; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska will work closely with the U.S. Government, local citizens' advisory groups, and participating industry groups to ensure the success of this pilot program.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Walter B. Jones, Chairman, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; the Honorable Glenn M. Anderson, Chairman, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation; the Honorable Quentin N. Burdick, Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings, Chairman, Science and Transportation; 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.