

# STATE OF ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1995

Source  
HR 7

House  
Resolve No.  
8



Opposing a proposed international convention classifying coal as a hazardous and noxious material.

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## BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

**WHEREAS** the International Maritime Organization (IMO), an organization under the auspices of the United Nations, is currently drafting proposals for an international treaty adopting and expanding insurance indemnity provisions for seaborne commodities; and

**WHEREAS**, in contrast to existing maritime classifications and the policies and regulations of the United States Department of Transportation and the United States Coast Guard, the IMO proposes classifying coal as a hazardous and noxious material; and

**WHEREAS** there is no rational reason or precedent for classifying coal as a hazardous or noxious material and the current maritime insurance has, without exception, adequately provided insurance indemnity for seaborne coal shipping; and

**WHEREAS** action classifying coal as a hazardous or noxious material could significantly increase insurance rates and the delivered cost of coal to the benefit of competing fuel sources; and

**WHEREAS** this action would dramatically reduce the competitiveness of coal as an import fuel and reduce the amount of exported coal from countries such as the United States; and

**WHEREAS** this action would reduce the potential for the export of Alaska coal; and

**WHEREAS** the National Coal Association, the United States Coal Exporters Association, and the Alaska Coal Association, together with labor organizations, adamantly oppose the IMO proposal; and

**WHEREAS** it is critical that United States government representatives to the IMO convention oppose the classification of coal as a hazardous or noxious material;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives respectfully urges the United States Senate not to ratify a Hazardous and Noxious Substance Convention proposed by the International Maritime Organization that includes coal as a designated hazardous or noxious material.

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bob Dole, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; 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.