



Alaska State Legislature

1970

Source:

SJR 95 am H

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to an international conference on oil pollution of the North Pacific, and to the discontinuance of the federal policy allowing the pumping of oily ballast on the high seas.

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

WHEREAS it is becoming increasingly evident that man, if he continues his present course of action, will not only pollute the air, streams and lakes but also the oceans of the world; and

WHEREAS the tragic episodes resulting recently from oil spills in the waters of other states and nations make it painfully clear that if man and his environment are to survive the utmost care must be employed when exploring for, extracting and transporting oil; and

WHEREAS Kodiak, Alaska has just suffered a major disaster because an oil slick caused by the pumping of oily ballast at sea has reportedly covered an estimated 1,000 miles of beach and killed a minimum of 10,000 sea birds; and

WHEREAS the tragic situation which now exists at Kodiak is a mere preview of what may happen in the future if proper safeguards are not established and followed in the transporting of oil; and

WHEREAS the present federal regulation allowing the pumping of ballast by oil tankers 50 miles from shore is totally inadequate to protect the shores and wildlife of the state; and

WHEREAS, because Alaska's waterlanes will be utilized to a great extent in future years to transport oil to west coast ports, strong precautions against oil spilling must be initiated now; and

WHEREAS the United States should be a world leader in establishing and enforcing proper safeguards to prevent future oil pollution of the world's seas;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Legislature respectfully urges the governments of Canada and the United States to convene an international conference on North Pacific marine oil pollution, and to consider the establishment of a permanent joint task force to provide coordination and leadership in all aspects of oil pollution prevention and abatement in this region; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Legislature respectfully requests that the federal government take immediate steps to stop tankers from emptying their oily ballast anywhere on the high seas; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the U. S. Coast Guard take the necessary steps to provide adequate visual and instrumented surveillance of tanker operations on the waters adjacent to Alaska.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Pierre Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Secretary, Department of the Interior; the Honorable John A. Volpe, Secretary, Department of Transportation; the Honorable John Harllee, Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, Admiral Willard J. Smith, Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard; Rear Admiral Robert E. Hammond, Commander, 17th Coast Guard District; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.