

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1988

Source

CSHJR 38(HESS)

Legislative
Resolve No.

87



Relating to radon.

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

WHEREAS high concentrations of radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas, have been found in homes around the state; and

WHEREAS radon is found in soils, rocks, and groundwater supplies, and can enter a house through various routes; and

WHEREAS a preliminary survey conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency indicated that as many as 8,000,000 or 12 percent of homes nationwide could contain dangerous levels of this cancer-causing gas, and that between 5,000 and 20,000 people each year die from lung cancer believed to be related to radon exposure; and

WHEREAS in Alaska, preliminary studies have identified high concentrations of radon in the areas adjacent to Fairbanks, Denali, and Healy; and

WHEREAS, unless regional surveys are conducted, one cannot reliably predict where high levels of indoor radon will be found because radon levels may be affected by the uranium content of nearby rock and soil, soil permeability, house construction, and other factors; and

WHEREAS the only way to determine whether a house contains a high level of radon is to test it with special equipment, because radon cannot be seen or smelled;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the United States and the State of Alaska should make a coordinated, joint effort to investigate and alleviate the indoor radon gas problem in Alaska; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that a radon information program designed to meet the needs of the citizens of our state should be developed and implemented.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable John S. Herrington, Secretary of Energy; to the Honorable Otis R. Bowen, Secretary of Health and Human Services; to Lee M. Thomas, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; 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; to Governor Steve Cowper; to Dennis Kelso, Commissioner of Environmental Conservation; to Myra Munson, Commissioner of Health and Social Services; and to Judith M. Brady, Commissioner of Natural Resources.