

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES AUSTERMAN, Harris, Gara, Guttenberg, Lynn, Gardner, Kerttula, Seaton, Thomas, Stoltze, Herron, Buch

SENATORS French, Wagoner, Ellis, Wielechowski, Paskvan, Menard, Thomas, Stevens

**Introduced: 2/23/09
Referred: Resources**

A RESOLUTION

1 **Recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill and supporting the**
2 **continued practice of accompanying each oil tanker through Prince William Sound with**
3 **at least a two vessel escort.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** March 24, 2009, marks the 20th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil
6 spill; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Exxon Valdez oil spill was the worst oil tanker spill in the history of
8 the United States, discharging 10,800,000 gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound and
9 contaminating approximately 1,300 miles of Alaska coastline; and

10 **WHEREAS**, since the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, the Alyeska Pipeline Service
11 Company and the crude oil shippers have created a world-class oil spill prevention and
12 response system in Prince William Sound; and

13 **WHEREAS** the oil tanker vessels transiting Prince William Sound are increasingly of
14 a double-hulled design, as required by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990; and

15 **WHEREAS** the Prince William Sound oil tanker escort vessels provide immediate,

1 on-scene response should a spill occur; and

2 **WHEREAS** all loaded oil tankers, including double-hulled oil tankers, are currently
3 escorted by at least two escort vessels through Prince William Sound; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 mandates that only single-hulled tankers of
5 5,000 gross tons or more be escorted by at least two escort vessels while in Prince William
6 Sound; and

7 **WHEREAS** there is no assurance in any state or federal law or regulation that each oil
8 tanker in Prince William Sound will continue to be escorted by at least two escort vessels
9 capable of providing immediate spill prevention and response; and

10 **WHEREAS**, since the implementation of the two-vessel escort system in Prince
11 William Sound, there have been no major oil spills, and potential accidents have been reduced
12 to near misses; and

13 **WHEREAS** double hulls are not a perfect prevention measure, and it would be
14 imprudent to alter a proven oil spill prevention and response program based solely on
15 improvements in oil tanker vessel engineering and design;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the continued practice
17 in Prince William Sound of accompanying each loaded oil tanker, whether single-hulled or
18 double-hulled, with at least two escort vessels.

19 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
20 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
21 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Janet Napolitano, United States Secretary of
22 Homeland Security; Admiral Thad W. Allen, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard;
23 the Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor of Alaska; Kevin Hostler; President and Chief Executive
24 Officer, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company; Anil Mathur, Chief Executive Officer, Alaska
25 Tanker Company; George P. McShea, Jr., Vice-President of Operations, Polar Tankers Inc.;
26 Stu McRobbie, Vice-President of Operations, SeaRiver Maritime; Tim Plummer, President,
27 Tesoro Maritime Company; Jeff Williams, Environmental Manager, Chevron Shipping
28 Company; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S.
29 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
30 delegation in Congress.