

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2009

Source
HJR 19

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
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Recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill and supporting the continued practice of accompanying each oil tanker through Prince William Sound with at least a two vessel escort.

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

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

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

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

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

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

on-scene response should a spill occur; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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