

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR STEVENS

Introduced: 2/27/09

Referred: State Affairs

**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.