

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MILLETT, Fairclough

Introduced: 3/16/11

Referred: House Special Committee on Economic Development, Trade, and Tourism, Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to pass legislation imposing a moratorium on the**
2 **issuance of new air quality regulations by the United States Environmental Protection**
3 **Agency and legislation prohibiting the United States Environmental Protection Agency**
4 **from regulating greenhouse gas emissions; and requesting that the federal government**
5 **prepare a report on the effects of proposed regulatory activity by the United States**
6 **Environmental Protection Agency relating to air quality.**

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

8 **WHEREAS** the United States Environmental Protection Agency has proposed or is
9 proposing numerous regulations relating to air quality and regulation of greenhouse gases,
10 which are likely to have major effects on the state's economy, jobs, and competitiveness in
11 world markets; and

12 **WHEREAS** regulatory activity by the United States Environmental Protection
13 Agency regarding air quality has been called a "train wreck" because of the potential for both
14 numerous overlapping requirements and devastating economic consequences; and

1 **WHEREAS** cap and trade legislation failed in the United States Congress, and the
2 Alaska State Legislature is concerned that the United States Environmental Protection Agency
3 will attempt to achieve through regulation what the United States Congress did not see fit to
4 pass; and

5 **WHEREAS** the regulatory burden currently imposed by the United States
6 Environmental Protection Agency is already driving jobs and industry out of the United
7 States; and

8 **WHEREAS** no entity in the federal executive branch has undertaken a comprehensive
9 study to determine the cumulative effects of additional regulatory activity on the nation's
10 economy, jobs, or competitiveness in world markets; and

11 **WHEREAS** the United States Environmental Protection Agency has not conducted a
12 comprehensive study of the benefits to the global climate that may result from the regulation
13 of greenhouse gases; and

14 **WHEREAS** state agencies are routinely required to identify and justify the costs and
15 benefits of state regulations; and

16 **WHEREAS**, because the United States Environmental Protection Agency has
17 identified "taking action on climate change and improving air quality" as its first strategic
18 goal for the period 2011 - 2015, the agency should be required to identify the specific actions
19 it intends to take to achieve that goal and to identify and justify the cost of regulatory actions
20 to be taken in pursuit of that goal; and

21 **WHEREAS**, at the present time, the primary goal of state and federal government
22 should be to promote the nation's economic recovery and to foster a stable and predictable
23 business environment that will create jobs; and

24 **WHEREAS** the public health and welfare will suffer without economic improvement
25 and the creation of new jobs because employed persons are better able to care for themselves
26 and their families than are unemployed persons, and because long-term environmental
27 protection, including that of the nation's air quality, is possible only in a society that generates
28 wealth; and

29 **WHEREAS** the Arctic region of the state contains oil accumulations of an estimated
30 30,000,000,000 barrels, representing one and one-half times the total oil reserves in the
31 United States and more than 22 percent of the estimated oil resources remaining in all other

1 areas of the United States; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Arctic region of the state contains an estimated 6,000,000,000 barrels
3 of natural gas liquids and 220 trillion cubic feet of natural gas; and

4 **WHEREAS** development of the oil and gas resources of the outer continental shelf
5 area of the Beaufort and Chukchi seas would create an approximate average of 55,000 jobs in
6 the United States for at least 50 years, with \$145,000,000,000 in payroll compensation, and
7 would generate more than \$190,000,000,000 of additional revenue for the state and federal
8 governments; and

9 **WHEREAS** the United States Environmental Protection Agency has been unable to
10 issue a single usable air permit to allow for exploratory drilling on the state's outer continental
11 shelf and, as a result, has stopped all exploration for new domestic energy on the state's outer
12 continental shelf; and

13 **WHEREAS** the United States Environmental Protection Agency's inability over the
14 past 50 years to draft a workable air permit has had significant negative effects on the state
15 and national economies, creation of jobs, and competitiveness in world markets at a time
16 when the state and nation urgently need jobs to be created and new sources of domestic
17 energy to be developed;

18 **BE IT RESOLVED** that, while the Alaska State Legislature supports continuing
19 efforts to improve the nation's air quality, the legislature believes that improvement in air
20 quality can be made without damaging the nation's economy; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature calls on the United States
22 Congress to pass legislation prohibiting the United States Environmental Protection Agency
23 from regulating greenhouse gas emissions, including, if necessary, legislation to withdraw
24 funding from greenhouse gas regulatory activities by the United States Environmental
25 Protection Agency; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
27 Congress to pass legislation imposing a two-year moratorium on the issuance of new air
28 quality regulations by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, except as may be
29 necessary to address an imminent health or environmental emergency; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests that the federal
31 government undertake a study that

1 (1) identifies all regulatory activity that the United States Environmental
2 Protection Agency intends to undertake in furtherance of the agency's goal of "taking action
3 on climate change and improving air quality";

4 (2) identifies the cumulative effects of proposed regulations on the economy,
5 jobs, and national economic competitiveness in world markets;

6 (3) involves a multi-agency effort that draws on the expertise of the United
7 States Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies and departments; and

8 (4) provides an objective cost-benefit analysis of the United States
9 Environmental Protection Agency's existing and planned regulations relating to air quality.

10 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
11 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
12 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S.
13 Environmental Protection Agency; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S.
14 Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable
15 John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi,
16 Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and
17 the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
18 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and the presiding officers of
19 the legislatures of each of the other 49 states.