

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2010

Source

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**Legislative
Resolve No.**

67



Urging the United States Congress not to enact Cap and Trade legislation.

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

WHEREAS S. 1733, the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act, is waiting to be heard in the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, has passed the United States House of Representatives and is waiting to be voted on in the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS cap and trade legislation has been a presidential priority and is before Congress; and

WHEREAS, while emissions cap and trade legislation attempts to minimize the impact of environmental restrictions on industry by offering economic incentives, the legislation would result in unnecessary regulation and economic interference by the federal government; and

WHEREAS additional environmental regulation and incentive programs will hinder the nation's free market economy, increase federal involvement in business, and mandate state oversight; and

WHEREAS the United States refrained from ratifying the Kyoto Protocol in 2007 because of the economic hindrances that would be imposed on businesses in the United States; and

WHEREAS the America's Climate Security Act of 2007, a less severe alternative to the Kyoto Protocol, was rejected by the United States Senate in the interest of protecting the United States economy; and

WHEREAS cap and trade measures make traditional electricity, heating, and transportation fuels more costly through rationing, while generating hundreds of billions of dollars in federal tax revenue from oil, coal, and natural gas production; and

WHEREAS stringent economic constraints threaten to drive industry out of the United States at a time when our economy requires encouragement rather than hindrance; and

WHEREAS arguments for phasing out fossil fuel uses have relied primarily on global climate calculations compiled by the Climate Research Unit of the University of East Anglia (CRU), the National Climate Data Center (NOAA-NCDC), and the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, on behalf of the International Panel on Climate Change; and

WHEREAS recent discoveries of fraudulent activities within these international reporting organizations, which have concluded that the planet is rapidly warming despite substantiated evidence of cooling over the last decade, have rendered the 2007 IPCC Assessment Report 4 (AR4) scientifically questionable and unreliable as a foundation for establishing public policy; and

WHEREAS the process of allocation for the distribution of emissions allowances in S. 1733 does not take into account the unique situation of Alaska relative to the remainder of the nation, including its population, geographic size, and extreme climate, and, as such, disadvantages the state as a whole; and

WHEREAS cap and trade legislation will have unforeseen effects on the economy and on the livelihood of the citizens of Alaska; and

WHEREAS the economy of the State of Alaska relies on the responsible development of our abundant natural resources, unburdened by superfluous regulations that are not specific to Alaska's market and industrial character; and

WHEREAS Alaska is a major exporter of carbon-based energy, and receives more than 80 percent of its unrestricted general fund revenue directly from oil and gas operations

and produces approximately 13 percent of the nation's oil supply; and

WHEREAS Alaska's refineries, which are essential to our economy and cold weather fuel needs, are uniquely vulnerable to increased costs associated with cap and trade legislation; and

WHEREAS prospects for the construction of an Alaska natural gas pipeline with the capacity to supply affordable and clean energy to the state and the nation as a whole may be severely damaged on both the developmental and delivery levels under cap and trade legislation; and

WHEREAS the cap and trade program, as proposed in the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, will be fundamentally detrimental to the economy and to workers in the state, by stifling economic development, resulting in potentially enormous job losses; and

WHEREAS natural resource development in the state, including refinery operations and proposed infrastructure projects, will be negatively impacted by limiting carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress not to enact any version of cap and trade legislation that would negatively affect Alaskans through the elimination of jobs and increased costs for goods and services, and, instead, to enact legislation that encourages states to establish and develop their own renewable energy portfolio standards, which include hydroelectric generation; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports measures that encourage investments in technology to address carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions.

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 Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; the Honorable James M. Inhofe, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; 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.