

**STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE**

**2010**

**Source**  
CSHJR 49(RES)

**Legislative  
Resolve No.**  
70



Urging the United States Congress to enact S.J. Res. 26, a resolution disapproving the Environmental Protection Agency's imposition of climate regulations that would harm Alaska's economy and the livelihoods of the state's citizens.

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

**WHEREAS** the President of the United States and members of the United States Congress are seeking to enact far-reaching climate legislation in order to force reductions in domestic greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS** Congressional support for H.R. 2454 and S. 1733 has weakened because of widespread concerns over economic cost, environmental effectiveness, and the intensely partisan process surrounding their development; and

**WHEREAS** efforts of the United States Congress to develop a more responsible policy continue, but the Environmental Protection Agency is seeking to circumvent the Congress and the people of the United States by pursuing an unprecedented expansion of the Clean Air Act; and

**WHEREAS** the Environmental Protection Agency, having recently issued an

"endangerment finding" for six greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide, is now on the verge of issuing economy-wide command-and-control regulations to force reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS** the Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that up to 6,000,000 American businesses, facilities, farms, and other greenhouse gas emitters will fall under the new climate regulations, as opposed to the 15,000 emitters who are currently regulated; and

**WHEREAS** the proposed climate regulations would subject a massive number of persons to an extremely expensive, time-intensive process that would require new permits to be obtained and new equipment and technologies to be installed; and

**WHEREAS** the administrative responsibilities associated with the proposed climate regulations would overwhelm state and local agencies, which already struggle to complete their work because of budget constraints, leading to unacceptable delays or rejections of new job-creating projects that would stimulate the economy; and

**WHEREAS** the consequences of the proposed climate regulations would be higher energy prices, higher food prices, fewer jobs, and reduced production of domestic oil, natural gas, and coal; and

**WHEREAS** the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed "tailoring rule" does not make the proposed climate regulations any more tenable because of state and local Clean Air Act requirements and the likelihood that the rule would not withstand the numerous legal challenges being prepared; and

**WHEREAS** the Clean Air Act was not designed to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, and the economic consequences of the proposed climate regulations would be felt nationwide and would be particularly harmful in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, because the Clean Air Act does not account for Alaska's unique circumstances, including population, physical size, geographic location, and arctic climate, the proposed climate regulations would uniquely disadvantage the state; and

**WHEREAS** the proposed climate regulations will have both predictable and unforeseen negative effects on the state's economy and citizens; and

**WHEREAS** the state's economy is reliant on the responsible development of the state's abundant natural resources, which is, at present, relatively unburdened by regulations that are not specific to Alaska's market and industrial character; and

**WHEREAS** the state 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, producing approximately 13 percent of the nation's oil supply; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska's refineries, which are essential to the state's economy and cold weather fuel needs, are uniquely vulnerable to the increased costs that would result from the proposed climate regulations; and

**WHEREAS** the detrimental effect that the proposed climate regulations would have on Alaska's refineries and North Slope oil production would also affect the Trans Alaska Pipeline System, which transports hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil to American markets each day and provides revenue needed for the state budget; and

**WHEREAS** the 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 would be severely affected on both developmental and delivery levels by the proposed climate regulations; and

**WHEREAS** large fish processors, mines, hotels, hospitals, and dozens of other facilities in the state would be subject to the proposed climate regulations, threatening important state economic engines and Alaskans' ability to obtain access to and afford many essential services; and

**WHEREAS** the proposed climate regulations will be detrimental to the state's economy and workers, stifling economic development and potentially causing enormous job losses; and

**WHEREAS** natural resource development in the state, including refinery operations, existing infrastructure, and proposed projects, will be negatively affected by the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed use of the Clean Air Act to limit carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to enact S.J. Res. 26, a bipartisan resolution of disapproval offered by Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, which would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency's endangerment finding from having any force or effect, and thereby prevent the agency from imposing economically harmful climate regulations that would negatively affect Alaska's economy and the livelihoods of Alaskans through the elimination of jobs and increased costs

for goods and services; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports responsible measures developed by the United States Congress, not by unelected federal bureaucrats, that encourage investments in technology to reduce 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; 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.