

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHENAULT

Introduced: 4/9/15

Referred:

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting the leases issued by the United States Department of the Interior to Royal**
2 **Dutch Shell in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas; urging the Governor of the State of**
3 **Washington, the Seattle City Council, and other public officials in the State of**
4 **Washington to refrain from destructive attacks on the economy, jobs, and lives of the**
5 **people of this state and the State of Washington and first consider closing the Boeing**
6 **production facilities to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide from commercial activity;**
7 **and inviting Royal Dutch Shell to use a port in this state as the homeport of its Arctic**
8 **drilling fleet if the lease with the Port of Seattle is terminated.**

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

10 **WHEREAS** this state pursued statehood in order to control its own economic destiny
11 and not to be subject to the special interests of the State of Washington or any entity that
12 would treat this state like a mere colony; and

13 **WHEREAS** this state is fortunate to have, on the outer continental shelf offshore of
14 the state, large oil and gas deposits, including deposits in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas that

1 are estimated to include up to 12,000,000,000 barrels of oil and 54,000,000,000,000 cubic feet
2 of natural gas; and

3 **WHEREAS** Royal Dutch Shell has paid the United States Department of the Interior
4 \$2,100,000,000 for gas leases and has invested approximately \$3,000,000,000 to develop
5 those leases; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in February 2015, the Port of Seattle entered into a two-year lease with
7 Foss Maritime on behalf of Royal Dutch Shell for a 50-acre parcel of the Seattle waterfront to
8 serve as the homeport of the Arctic drilling fleet; and

9 **WHEREAS** the lease would continue to enhance the economic ties between the states
10 of Alaska and Washington and would provide between 500 and 700 good paying jobs for
11 people in the State of Washington; and

12 **WHEREAS** environmental groups have filed a lawsuit to nullify the lease and the
13 Seattle City Council, Seattle Mayor Edward B. Murray, and Washington Governor Jay Inslee
14 have publicly opposed the lease on the basis that Arctic drilling is harmful to the global
15 environment; and

16 **WHEREAS** all nine members of the Seattle City Council and Washington Governor
17 Jay Inslee have sent formal letters to Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior,
18 urging the revocation of the leases held by Royal Dutch Shell in the Arctic on the basis that
19 oil and gas drilling and development in the Arctic will contribute to global climate change;
20 and

21 **WHEREAS** the State of Washington is home to the Boeing Company, the largest
22 producer of aircraft and one of the largest contributors of carbon dioxide emissions in the
23 world; and

24 **WHEREAS** the closure of the Boeing production facilities would represent a
25 reduction of 650 aircraft a year that otherwise would discharge more than 500,000 tons of
26 carbon dioxide during the lifetimes of those aircraft and would provide a significant reduction
27 in the release of pollutants into the atmosphere; and

28 **WHEREAS** development of the Arctic outer continental shelf waters is critical to the
29 economic security of the state, the continued viability of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System,
30 and the energy security of the United States; and

31 **WHEREAS** the State of Washington and the City of Seattle are urging and taking

1 action that would harm the economic development of this state and its citizens, while, at the
2 same time, the State of Washington and the City of Seattle benefit from the development of
3 this state's resources, which accounted for approximately 113,000 jobs for Washington
4 residents in 2013, a value of Puget Sound exports to this state of more than \$5,400,000,000 in
5 2013, and cargo bound for this state that made up 80 percent of the domestic cargo passing
6 through the ports of Seattle and Tacoma between 2009 and 2013; and

7 **WHEREAS** this state stands ready to assist Royal Dutch Shell in the development of
8 its leases in the Arctic and has available potential homeports at Dutch Harbor and Seward; a
9 homeport in this state could benefit from the jobs that the City of Seattle and the State of
10 Washington consider to be unworthy for their residents;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature affirms its support of the leases
12 issued by the United States Department of the Interior to Royal Dutch Shell in the Chukchi
13 and Beaufort Seas; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Governor of the
15 State of Washington, the Seattle City Council, and other public officials in the State of
16 Washington to refrain from destructive attacks on the economy, jobs, and lives of the people
17 of this state and the State of Washington; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Governor of the
19 State of Washington, the Seattle City Council, and other public officials in the State of
20 Washington to first consider closing the Boeing production facilities in the State of
21 Washington if they are truly concerned about the effects of emissions of carbon dioxide from
22 commercial activity; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature invites Royal Dutch Shell
24 to use a port in this state as the homeport of its Arctic drilling fleet if the lease with the Port of
25 Seattle is terminated.

26 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States
27 Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senator; the Honorable Maria
28 Cantwell, U.S. Senator; the Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, U.S. Representative; the
29 Honorable David G. Reichert, U.S. Representative; the Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler,
30 U.S. Representative; the Honorable Dan Newhouse, U.S. Representative; the Honorable Jim
31 McDermott, U.S. Representative; the Honorable Adam Smith, U.S. Representative; the

1 Honorable Rick Larsen, U.S. Representative; the Honorable Suzan DelBene, U.S.
2 Representative; the Honorable Derek Kilmer, U.S. Representative; the Honorable Denny
3 Heck, U.S. Representative; the Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor of the State of Washington;
4 the Honorable Edward B. Murray, Mayor of the City of Seattle; Tim Burgess, President,
5 Seattle City Council; Sally Bagshaw, Councilmember, Seattle City Council; Sally J. Clark,
6 Councilmember, Seattle City Council; Jean Godden, Councilmember, Seattle City Council;
7 Bruce A. Harrell, Councilmember, Seattle City Council; Nick Licata, Councilmember, Seattle
8 City Council; Mike O'Brien, Councilmember, Seattle City Council; Tom Rasmussen,
9 Councilmember, Seattle City Council; Kshama Sawant, Councilmember, Seattle City
10 Council; Ben van Beurden, Chief Executive Officer, Royal Dutch Shell; and the Honorable
11 Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
12 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.