



Alaska Association of Student Government

Resolution #12

Call To Safeguard Alaska's Ecological Present and Future

Submitted by: Metlakatla High School Student Government

Written by: Gabrielle Seward

Submitted: 4/23/2025

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:

1. **Whereas**, Article VIII Section 2 of the Alaska Constitution states, “The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people;”¹
2. **Whereas**, President Trump’s executive order titled, “Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential” calls for the United States to, “fully avail itself of Alaska’s vast lands and resources for the benefit of the Nation and the American citizens who call Alaska home,” and to, “rescind, revoke, revise, amend, defer, or grant exemptions from any and all regulations, orders, guidance documents, policies, and any other similar agency actions that are inconsistent with [this] policy;”⁵
3. **Whereas**, President Trump’s executive order specifies that Alaska’s “Resource Potential” includes our “energy, minerals, timber and seafood” resources;⁵
4. **Whereas**, according to the Arctic Council, temperatures in Arctic regions of the globe, including Alaska, are rising at three times the global annual average;⁴
5. **Whereas**, according to the United Nations, coal, oil, and natural gas are the leading causes of global climate change, and account for over 75% of all greenhouse gas emissions and 90% of all carbon dioxide emissions;²
6. **Whereas**, planned oil and gas development following President Trump’s executive order will be located on lands with delicate ecosystems that were previously protected by Federal and State regulations, such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge;⁵

7. **Whereas**, the EPA has found that over the past 60 years, temperatures in Alaska have increased by 3° Fahrenheit, which is more than twice the warming in the rest of the United States. Additionally, they have found that “climate change is also having adverse effects on many ecosystems and species, and is creating new hardships for Native Alaskans;”³
8. **Whereas**, the EPA has also found that, “Arctic plants and animals, including those harvested as subsistence food, are also at higher risk for diseases in a warming climate, further affecting food availability and human health;”³
9. **Whereas**, long term environmental and ecological harm does not provide the “maximum benefit” to Alaska’s people;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments stands against the unnecessary exploitation of Alaska’s delicate ecosystems, and urges the Alaska State Legislature to fulfill their Constitutional obligation to conserve Alaska’s lands, waters & resources, and protect them from harmful Federal overreach.

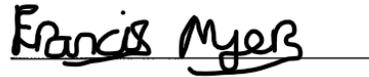
Action Statement: If passed by the general assembly of AASG, this resolution shall be sent to the members of the Alaska House & Senate Resource Committees for consideration.

Works Cited

1. Alaska Constitutional Convention. *Alaska’s Constitution*. Fairbanks, AK, 1956. Retrieved from <<https://ltgov.alaska.gov/information/alaskas-constitution/>>
2. “Causes and Effects of Climate Change.” The United Nations. Last modified 2025. Retrieved from <<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/causes-effects-climate-change#:~:text=Fossil%20fuels%20%E2%80%93%20coal%2C%20oil%20and,of%20all%20carbon%20dioxide%20emissions>>
3. “Climate Impacts in Alaska.” The Environmental Protection Agency. Last modified January 13, 2017. Retrieved from <https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/climate-impacts/climate-impacts-alaska_.html>
4. “The Arctic in a Changing Climate.” Arctic Council. Last modified 2025. Retrieved from <<https://arctic-council.org/explore/topics/climate/>>
5. Trump, Donald. *UNLEASHING ALASKA’S EXTRAORDINARY RESOURCE POTENTIAL*. The White House, 2025. Retrieved from <<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/unleashing-alaskas-extraordinary-resource-potential/>>

Resolution passes with noted opposition

Passed by the Spring 2025 General Assembly of AASG hosted by Sitka High School and Mt Edgecumbe High School

Handwritten signature of Francis Myers in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

AASG Vice President, Francis Myers

Handwritten signature of Kathleen Navarre in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre