

Presented by: Assemblymember Robinson
Introduced: 12/07/87
Drafted by: C.R.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 1274

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING PLUTONIUM SHIPMENTS THROUGH ALASKA AIR SPACE OR ON ALASKAN SOIL UNDER A PROPOSED UNITED STATES NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN.

WHEREAS, the United States and Japanese governments have negotiated a thirty-year nuclear cooperation agreement to begin in the early 1990's, which would potentially permit the shipping of tens of thousands of pounds of plutonium, a long-lived, highly radioactive, extremely toxic substance, and

WHEREAS, the polar route planned for the shipments would necessitate mid-air refueling (which is currently only available for military aircraft) or a refueling stop in Alaska, and

WHEREAS, a fail-safe shipping cask for the safe, secure air-borne transportation of plutonium which meets the applicable requirements of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has not yet been developed and thoroughly tested, and

WHEREAS, the release of plutonium oxide powder could constitute a most serious public health hazard to humans and all living organisms in Alaska, resulting in death, cancer, and agonizing disease, and

WHEREAS, the transportation of these shipments in aircraft could expose the citizens of Alaska to a wide variety of potential dangers, and

WHEREAS, Alaska law, AS 18.45.027, expressly prohibits the transportation of used nuclear reactor fuel except for disposal outside the state, and

WHEREAS, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the legislative bodies of the Yukon and Greenland have unanimously approved resolutions which call for restricting the Arctic to uses that are environmentally safe, and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature has unanimously passed resolutions opposing the U.S.-Japan agreement (HJR 35 and SJR 42), and

WHEREAS, on November 13, 1987, the Alaska Municipal League passed a resolution, No. 88-19, opposing the U.S.-Japan agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

1. That the Assembly strongly opposes the proposed 30-year nuclear cooperation agreement between the U.S. and Japan which would allow the polar route shipment of plutonium by air between Europe and Japan over Alaskan land and/or waters.

2. That the Assembly urges that the United States Departments of Defense, Energy, and State be required to conduct a complete environmental impact study (EIS) examining all possible alternatives and their impacts before further consideration of this agreement.

3. That existing strict and absolute crash test standards for shipping casks to survive real (rather than simulated) crash conditions be maintained and that casks meet all applicable Nuclear Regulatory Commission standards.

4. That the Assembly respectfully requests that the Governor, the Alaska State Legislature, and Alaska's Congressional delegation: (a) oppose this agreement; (b) seek the review and test conditions described herein; and (c) work ardently to prevent the use of Alaskan air space and land for shipments of plutonium between Europe and Japan.

Adopted this 7th day of December, 1987.



Mayor

Attest:



Clerk