

RESOLUTION NO. 5008

A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, STATE OF ALASKA, AND EUROPEAN UNION STAKEHOLDERS TO WORK TOGETHER TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALASKA'S NATURAL GAS FOR EXPORT TO DEMOCRATIC EUROPEAN NATIONS TO REDUCE THEIR DEPENDENCE ON RUSSIAN NATURAL GAS

WHEREAS, on November 16, 1973, President Richard Nixon signed the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act in response to the oil embargo of October 17, 1973, by the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries in retaliation for the United States' support of Israel during the Yom Kippur War; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation launched an unjustified attack against the sovereign nation of Ukraine, and

WHEREAS, in 2020, 38% of all European Union (EU) imported natural gas came from Russia, with some countries importing over 90% of their natural gas from Russia; and

WHEREAS, 80% of all natural gas consumed by the European Union is imported and the current consumption rate is about 45 billion cubic feet per day or 16.5 trillion cubic feet per year; and

WHEREAS, high levels of energy dependence on an aggressive and rogue nation puts many sovereign European nations and the entire EU in an unfortunate strategic and diplomatic situation; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has vast known reserves of natural gas totaling nearly 37 trillion cubic feet; the United States Geological Survey (USGS) estimates over 200 trillion cubic feet of natural gas remains undiscovered in arctic Alaska; and Alaska has a long history of being a reliable, stable, and predictable energy supplier; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's natural gas should make up an important part of the EU's long-term energy security; and

WHEREAS, purchasers of natural gas will value Alaska liquified natural gas (LNG) at a significant premium compared to natural gas coming from regions that are less stable and less reliable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Fairbanks City Council that Alaska's natural gas should be developed to help reduce the dependence of the EU and democratic European nations on imported Russian natural gas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fairbanks City Council urges the Biden Administration to enact policies in Alaska that facilitate the discovery, production, and delivery to market of Alaska's significant natural gas resource; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fairbanks City Council urges the Alaska congressional delegation to work towards the passage of a new Trans-Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Authorization Act to clear the legal path for North Slope natural gas to be transported to the Gulf of Alaska for export as LNG; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fairbanks City Council urges the Governor of Alaska to meet with major stakeholders and consumers of natural gas in the EU to seek financial support for the construction of a large diameter natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to the Gulf of Alaska, as well as commitments for long term purchases of Alaska natural gas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council directs the City Clerk to distribute copies of this resolution to members of Alaska's congressional delegation, to Alaska's State Representatives and Senators, to Governor Dunleavy, and to President Biden.

PASSED and APPROVED this 14th day of March 2022.



Jim Matherly, Mayor

AYES: PASSED and APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Matherly
APPROVED: March 14, 2022

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk



Paul Ewers, City Attorney