

DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA

COMMITTEES:
INTERIOR AND INSULAR
AFFAIRS
MERCHANT MARINE AND
FISHERIES

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

April 19, 1982

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Mr. Richard Sims
Water Resources Board
State of Alaska
323 East 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Sims:

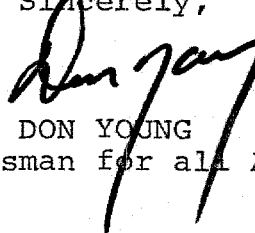
Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Board expressing concerns about oil spill penalties and reporting requirements. I hope that the following will be of help to you.

I am unaware of any federal legislation that imposes a mandatory fine on spillers. If you have a specific reference, I would appreciate receiving it. According to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, there are also no State laws which impose mandatory fines. In both federal and State law, there are penalties which can be assessed, along with liability limits. However, I know of no situation in which a fine is mandated.

The State does have a toll-free line which can be used to report oil spills, no matter where the spill occurs. Although jurisdiction for clean-up and reporting is divided between State and federal agencies, the State telephone number can be used to report any spill. In addition, the State has negotiated memoranda of understanding with federal agencies to reduce the paperwork involved.

If you and the Board continue to feel that a problem exists, I am sure that the State Department of Environmental Conservation would be interested in hearing from you. I would suggest that you contact them with regard to any recommendations you might have.

Sincerely,



DON YOUNG
Congressman for all Alaska

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