

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MILLETT, Lynn, Peggy Wilson, Saddler, Chenault, Tuck, Johansen, Joule, Gardner, Costello, Fairclough

Introduced: 1/21/11

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to refrain from passing legislation that designates**
2 **land in Area 1002 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** Area 1002 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is considered the most
5 promising onshore oil and gas prospect in the United States; and

6 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of the Interior estimates that there may be
7 10,400,000,000 recoverable barrels of oil and significant quantities of natural gas in the Arctic
8 National Wildlife Refuge; and

9 **WHEREAS** the potentially enormous oil and gas prospects are located in Area 1002
10 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and Area 1002 comprises only eight percent of the
11 total area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

12 **WHEREAS** the United States Congress, in 16 U.S.C. 3121 (sec. 1002, Alaska
13 National Interest Lands Conservation Act), authorized oil and gas exploratory activity within
14 the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and reserved the right to enact future
15 laws to allow for entry into and development of oil and gas resources in the Arctic National
16 Wildlife Refuge; and

1 **WHEREAS** Area 1002 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was excluded from
2 wilderness designation in 1980 as a result of a compromise in the negotiations that led to the
3 conversion of the Alaska Wildlife Range into the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, with the
4 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge encompassing an area that is approximately double the size
5 of the Alaska Wildlife Range; and

6 **WHEREAS** 16 U.S.C. 3101(d) (sec. 101(d), Alaska National Interest Lands
7 Conservation Act) expresses the belief of the United States Congress that the need for future
8 legislation designating new conservation system units, new national conservation areas, or
9 new national recreation areas in Alaska has been obviated by the enactment of the Alaska
10 National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and

11 **WHEREAS** the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is drafting a revised Arctic
12 Refuge Conservation Plan that could recommend that the United States Congress declare a
13 wilderness designation for Area 1002 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

14 **WHEREAS** development of the oil reserves in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
15 would reduce the dependence of the United States on unstable sources of foreign oil and
16 would make the economy of the United States stronger and more stable; and

17 **WHEREAS** the economy of the United States would suffer further if the large natural
18 gas resources in Area 1002 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are not available for
19 transportation in the proposed Alaska natural gas pipeline; and

20 **WHEREAS** clean-burning natural gas delivered by way of the proposed Alaska
21 natural gas pipeline could be used as an environmentally friendly energy source for homes
22 and businesses in the lower 48 states for decades to come; and

23 **WHEREAS** new technology and environmental practices used by the oil and gas
24 industry provide for efficient production and environmental protection; and

25 **WHEREAS** 8,900,000 acres of the 19,000,000 acres in the Arctic National Wildlife
26 Refuge are already designated as wilderness areas; and

27 **WHEREAS**, assuming development of major oil and gas prospects and full leasing,
28 oil and gas operations will have a footprint on only 2,000 acres out of a total of 1,500,000
29 acres in Area 1002 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, approximately 0.13 percent of the
30 area;

31 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States

1 Congress to preserve its right to enact a law providing for the environmentally responsible
2 exploration and development of oil and gas resources in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
3 by not passing any legislation that designates land in Area 1002 of the Arctic National
4 Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

5 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
6 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
7 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ken Salazar, United States Secretary of the
8 Interior; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
9 Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
10 Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell,
11 Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jeff Bingaman, Chair of the Energy and
12 Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
13 Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
14 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 112th United
15 States Congress.