

Alaska State Legislature



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SPONSOR STATEMENT

HJR 7

Resolution Urging the U.S. Congress to Open ANWR to Oil and Gas Exploration

House Joint Resolution 7 urges the United States Congress to pass legislation to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration and production.

ANWR remains a key component of our nation's effort to achieve energy independence. Combining environmentally responsible oil production with renewable energy sources like wind, solar and hydro will reduce and could someday even eliminate our dependence on crude oil from nations that are hostile to the United States.

New directional drilling technology will protect the delicate arctic ecosystem and shrink the size of the development footprint. Someday it may even be possible to drill outside the 1002 area.

All the reasons for opening ANWR are still valid. Failing to even address the issue only slows down America's effort to gain true energy security in the future.

Opening ANWR is more important for America's economy and national security than ever. HJR 7 expresses the Alaska Legislature's desire to see the 1002 area open as soon as possible and respectfully asks congress to pass legislation permitting oil and gas exploration and development to go forward.