

ALASKA STATE SENATE

Interim:
1292 Sadler Way, Ste. 340
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: (907) 451-2157
Fax: (907) 452-3401



Session:
State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3719
Fax: (907) 465-3258

SENATOR JOHN COGHILL

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Joint Resolution 13 (“SJR 13”) - “Supporting oil and gas exploration and development on the outer continental shelf offshore of the state; opposing attempts to prohibit oil and gas development in the Chukchi Sea Planning Area and the Beaufort Sea Planning Area; and requesting that the federal Administration cease and desist from all future restrictions in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas.”

On January 27, 2015, the Obama Administration (through Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”) Director Abigail Ross Hopper) announced it was restricting certain “high petroleum potential” portions of the Chukchi and Beaufort Sea Planning Areas from the Outer Continental Shelf (“OCS”) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022.

While some areas had previously been excluded from leasing, withdrawals from the Hanna Shoal area in the Chukchi Sea are new. The Hanna Shoal area is an area with “high petroleum potential” in close proximity with active and historic leases. Other historic leases are also withdrawn, in areas found in both the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. Those historic leases provide a higher probability for oil and gas potential production.

A belief held by many Alaskans, is that these actions by the federal executive branch may do damage to future oil and gas activity in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. As a result, these actions should be opposed.

Please join Senator Coghill in supporting SJR13.