



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Joint Resolution 10

Sponsor Statement

President Barack Obama made a decision contrary to the fundamental interest of Alaskans on January 25th, 2015. By unilaterally moving to designate the coastal plain (1002 Area) of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) as wilderness, the President has initiated an administrative process to preclude development in a petroleum rich region permanently. Though Congress needs to approve these changes, history has shown that executive action that locks up the resources of Alaska is very hard to reverse.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) was passed by Congress in 1980 to settle the issue of designating sufficient federal land for preservation. An area greater than the state of California was set aside for conservation as a consequence of ANILCA. This was such an explicit attempt to close the metaphorical door that a "no more clause" was specifically put into the law. ANILCA also explicitly singled out the coastal plain of ANWR for future development.

Since ANILCA's passage, Congress has on several occasions passed enabling legislation to open the sliver of designated land in ANWR for resource development. Nearly every time, executive action, administrative rulings, and regulatory measures have countered these efforts. This current measure by the President is contrary to the "no more clause" and prioritizes land, based on inaccurate depictions of the area, over Alaskans and their right to self-determination.

Senate Joint Resolution 10 is a message the Alaska Legislature will send to Congress, as well as the President and members of his Cabinet stating that Alaska emphatically opposes this effort to close off even more land for development usage. Federal lands already compose more than sixty percent of all acreage in Alaska; our state is home to the largest National and State Parks in the country. The public servants in Washington D.C. must know, that "no more" is not a declaration, but a law.