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Governor Bill Walker  
STATE OF ALASKA

February 8, 2017

The Honorable Geran Tarr  
The Honorable Andy Josephson  
Resources Committee Co-Chairs  
Alaska State House of Representatives

Dear Representative Tarr, Representative Josephson, and Committee Members:

I wholeheartedly support House Joint Resolution 5 and the development of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

Since the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980, the authority to allow oil and gas development in ANWR has resided with the U.S. Congress. We have been asking Congress for permission to explore and develop this area of our state for decades. Despite repeated efforts to access these lands for oil and gas exploration and development within Alaska's borders, the overwhelming majority of federal lands on the North Slope of Alaska remain off limits. That includes the 1002 Area, which was specifically designated within ANWR for oil and gas development. Alaskans have waited patiently to exercise their right to develop these resources, and it is time to allow us that opportunity.

The North Slope of Alaska is one of the world's great hydrocarbon basins and has been contributing to the economic prosperity of our state and the nation for many years. Development of ANWR will help fuel Alaska's economy and ensure America's energy security for decades to come.

With a resource potential comparable to Prudhoe Bay – the largest conventional oilfield in North America and one of the 20 largest fields in the world – the coastal plain represents an opportunity to create jobs, generate government revenues, keep energy prices affordable, and improve domestic energy security long into the future.

With Alaska's high environmental protection standards, history of responsible resource development, and the use of state of the art technology, the necessary work can be accomplished safely with little impact on the environment.

Thank you for considering House Joint Resolution 5, and I support your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Walker".  
Bill Walker  
Governor

cc: The Honorable Dean Westlake, Alaska State House of Representatives