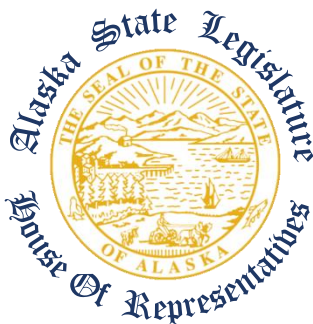


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Sponsor Statement

House Joint Resolution 12

Upon passage of the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA, 1980), 1.5million acres within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) we set aside specifically for further consideration of oil and gas development. Section 1002 of ANILCA specifies that development of these resources must be approved by Congress.

In December 2017, Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act which included the necessary provisions and approvals by Congress to proceed with a lease sale. On August 17, 2020, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt announced an oil and gas leasing program in ANWR. The lease sales took place in the later part of 2020. On January 20, 2021 President Biden announced a temporary halt to drilling activity in ANWR.

The 1002 area of ANWR is 1.5 million acres of the 19-million-acre refuge and has been said to represent the size of a quarter on a football field. However, it is estimated to contain over 7 billion barrels of recoverable oil and over 7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Oil and natural gas exploration and production fuel Alaska's economy and account for 1 out of every 4 jobs in the state. During a time of global uncertainty and a struggling Alaskan economy the sudden decision to pause oil and gas leasing and development adds additional uncertainty here at home. Further, that decision will not stop the global projection of fossil fuels, but has the very real potential to shift production, and thus U.S. dependence on, other energy jurisdictions. Some of these jurisdictions have lower environmental standards than the U.S.

Please join me in asking the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to honor the recent lease sales; asking that President Biden's administration defend the 2020 Record of Decision issued by the BLM, move forward with the permitting process in good faith, rescind the provisions of Executive Order 13990 pertaining to ANWR, and respectfully listen to the State of Alaska, the residents of the North Slope Borough, and the residents of the Alaska Native communities of the North Slope, including Kaktovik before taking action.

If you have additional questions, please contact Jesse Logan in my office at 907-465-4859.