

**SENATE CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11(RES)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/1/99

Referred: Rules

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES PHILLIPS, James, Harris, Whitaker, Smalley, Rokeberg, Porter, Austerman, Hudson, Ogan, Mulder, Foster, Dyson, Green, Coghill, Barnes, Halcro, Williams, Bunde, Morgan, Murkowski, Joule**

**SENATORS Mackie, Donley, Wilken, Green, Taylor, Tim Kelly, Adams, Ward, Halford, Leman**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 Urging the United States Congress to pass legislation to open the coastal plain  
2 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, to oil and gas exploration,  
3 development, and production.

4 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 **WHEREAS**, in sec. 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act  
6 (ANILCA), the United States Congress reserved the right to permit further oil and gas  
7 exploration, development, and production within the coastal plain of the Arctic National  
8 Wildlife Refuge, Alaska; and

9 **WHEREAS** the oil industry, the state, and the United States Department of the Interior  
10 consider the coastal plain to have the highest potential for discovery of very large oil and gas  
11 accumulations on the continent of North America, estimated to be as much as 10,000,000,000  
12 barrels of recoverable oil; and

13 **WHEREAS** the residents of the North Slope Borough, within which the coastal plain  
14 is located, are supportive of development in the "1002 study area"; and

15 **WHEREAS** oil and gas exploration and development of the coastal plain of the refuge  
16 and adjacent land could result in major discoveries that would reduce our nation's future need

1 for imported oil, help balance the nation's trade deficit, and significantly increase the nation's  
2 security; and

3 **WHEREAS** domestic demand for oil continues to rise while domestic crude  
4 production continues to fall with the result that the United States imports additional oil from  
5 foreign sources; and

6 **WHEREAS** development of oil at Prudhoe Bay, Kuparuk, Endicott, Lisburne, and  
7 Milne Point has resulted in thousands of jobs throughout the United States, and projected job  
8 creation as a result of coastal plain oil development will have a positive effect in all 50 states;  
9 and

10 **WHEREAS** Prudhoe Bay production is declining by approximately 10 percent a year;  
11 and

12 **WHEREAS**, while new oil field developments on the North Slope of Alaska, such as  
13 Alpine, Badami, and West Sak, may slow or temporarily stop the decline in production, only  
14 giant coastal plain fields have the theoretical capability of increasing the production volume  
15 of Alaska oil to a significant degree; and

16 **WHEREAS** opening the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge now  
17 allows sufficient time for planning environmental safeguards, development, and national  
18 security review; and

19 **WHEREAS** the oil and gas industry and related state employment have been severely  
20 affected by reduced oil and gas activity, and the reduction in industry investment and  
21 employment has broad implications for the state's work force and the entire state economy;  
22 and

23 **WHEREAS** the 1,500,000-acre coastal plain of the refuge comprises only eight percent  
24 of the 19,000,000-acre refuge, and the development of the oil and gas reserves in the refuge's  
25 coastal plain would affect an area of only 2,000 to 7,000 acres, which is less than one-half of  
26 one percent of the area of the coastal plain; and

27 **WHEREAS** 8,000,000 of the 19,000,000 acres of the refuge have already been set  
28 aside as wilderness; and

29 **WHEREAS** the oil industry has shown at Prudhoe Bay, as well as at other locations  
30 along the Arctic coastal plain, that it can safely conduct oil and gas activity without adversely  
31 affecting the environment or wildlife populations; and

1        **WHEREAS** the state will ensure the continued health and productivity of the  
2 Porcupine Caribou herd and the protection of land, water, and wildlife resources during the  
3 exploration and development of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,  
4 Alaska; and

5        **WHEREAS** the oil industry is using innovative technology and environmental  
6 practices in the new field developments at Alpine and Northstar, and those techniques are  
7 directly applicable to operating on the coastal plain and would enhance environmental  
8 protection beyond traditionally high standards;

9        **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of the United  
10 States is urged to pass legislation to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife  
11 Refuge, Alaska, to oil and gas exploration, development, and production, and that the Alaska  
12 State Legislature is adamantly opposed to further wilderness or other restrictive designation  
13 in the area of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska; and be it

14        **FURTHER RESOLVED** that that activity be conducted in a manner that protects the  
15 environment and uses the state's work force to the maximum extent possible.

16        **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the  
17 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and president  
18 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable  
19 Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Trent Lott,  
20 Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank  
21 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of  
22 the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to all other members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S.  
23 House of Representatives serving in the 106th United States Congress.