

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9 am**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY SENATORS PEARCE, Adams, Green, Parnell, Taylor, Miller, Mackie, Donley, Sharp, Leman, Phillips, Halford, Wilken, Torgerson, Kelly, Ward**

**REPRESENTATIVES Rokeberg, Kott, Ogan, Kubina, Porter, Hudson**

**Amended: 2/13/97**

**Referred: Resources**

**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** demand for oil consumed in the United States rose by 2.5 percent in the  
4 past year and domestic crude production continued to fall to 6,460,000 barrels per day;  
5 consequently, the percentage of oil imported from foreign sources increased to more than 52  
6 percent, and the price of imported oil increased over 35 percent in the year; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 affecting the environment or wildlife populations; and

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

6       **WHEREAS**, the state will ensure the continued health and productivity of the  
7 Porcupine Caribou herd and the protection of land, water, and wildlife resources during the  
8 exploration and development of the coastal plane of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

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 be it

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

14       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the  
15 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and president  
16 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Newt  
17 Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority  
18 Leader of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski,  
19 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska  
20 delegation in Congress; and to all other members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of  
21 Representatives serving in the 105th United States Congress.