

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 39(RES) am H

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Amended: 4/6/00

Offered: 3/23/00

Sponsor(s): SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the United States Congress to pass S. 2214, a bill opening the
2 coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to responsible exploration,
3 development, and production of its oil and gas resources.

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

5 WHEREAS, in 1973, during the Arab oil embargo, the United States was 36 percent
6 dependent on foreign supplies, while today the United States relies on imports to supply over
7 56 percent of its energy consumption; and

8 WHEREAS, in the last eight years, the nation's demand for petroleum products has
9 grown by 14 percent while domestic production has declined by 17 percent; and

10 WHEREAS, by 2020, the United States expects to be 64 percent dependent on other
11 countries to fuel its industry, transportation, and homes; and

12 WHEREAS United States consumers are paying the price, with home heating oil costs
13 in the Northeastern states surpassing \$1.70 a gallon, while gasoline prices have climbed to \$2
14 a gallon for mid-range gasoline in California; and

15 WHEREAS some airplane passengers are currently paying a \$20 fuel surcharge on
16 tickets; and

1 **WHEREAS** the nation's growing reliance on foreign oil is strengthening the aggressive
2 pricing policies of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC); and

3 **WHEREAS** the United States is currently receiving 44 percent of its imported oil from
4 OPEC countries, including 1,400,000 barrels a day from Saudi Arabia and 700,000 barrels a
5 day from Iraq; and

6 **WHEREAS** Iraq has emerged as the fastest growing source of United States oil
7 imports; and

8 **WHEREAS** the United States is spending \$300,000,000 a day on foreign oil,
9 accounting for one-third of the entire trade deficit; and

10 **WHEREAS** the United States Secretary of energy recently visited the OPEC countries
11 of Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait and non-OPEC member Mexico to urge increased
12 production, but did not visit Alaska; and

13 **WHEREAS** it will take 10,000 dockings of foreign supertankers carrying 500,000
14 barrels of oil each to provide 65 percent of the nation's oil needs in 2020; and

15 **WHEREAS**, if the United States is going to reduce its dependence on foreign oil, it
16 must look toward domestic sources, including Alaska's Arctic; and

17 **WHEREAS** federal legislation has been introduced by Senator Murkowski calling for
18 the opening of the 1,500,000-acre coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to
19 environmentally sound exploration, development, and production of oil and gas resources; and

20 **WHEREAS** the coastal plain is America's best possibility for the discovery of another
21 giant, Prudhoe Bay-sized oil and gas discovery in North America; and

22 **WHEREAS**, in 1998, a three-year study by the United States Geological Survey
23 estimated the recoverable oil potential of the coastal plain to be as high as 16,000,000,000
24 barrels of oil, which could replace Saudi oil imports to the United States for 30 years; and

25 **WHEREAS** the vast majority of Alaskans, including the Native residents of Kaktovik,
26 the only community located in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, supports coastal plain
27 development; and

28 **WHEREAS** the state will ensure the continued health and productivity of the
29 Porcupine Caribou herd and the protection of land, water, and wildlife resources during the
30 exploration and development of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

31 **WHEREAS** coastal plain development could provide hundreds of thousands of jobs

1 and billions of dollars in government revenue, and could contribute billions of dollars to the
2 nation's economy; and

3 **WHEREAS** many national groups may argue against the development of the Arctic
4 National Wildlife Refuge gas reserves because there is no vehicle to bring the gas to market;

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Legislature supports Alaska's role in providing
6 this nation with a major portion of its domestic oil and encourages the United States Congress
7 to pass S. 2214, a bill opening the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to
8 responsible exploration, development, and production of its oil and gas resources; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that oil exploration and development activity be conducted
10 in a manner that protects the wildlife and the environment and utilizes the state's work force
11 to the maximum extent possible; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Legislature opposes any efforts to declare
13 the coastal plain a national monument; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Legislature urges the current leaseholders
15 on the North Slope to make every effort to promptly build a natural gas pipeline to bring
16 Alaska's natural gas to market and thereby avoiding resistance by national organizations that
17 the gas resources in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge would be stranded.

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