

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2007

Source

HCS CSSJR 6(RES)

**Legislative
Resolve No.**

21



Urging the United States Congress to defeat H.R. 39, titled "To preserve the Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, as wilderness in recognition of its extraordinary natural ecosystems and for the permanent good of present and future generations of Americans."

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

WHEREAS H.R. 39, titled "To preserve the Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, as wilderness in recognition of its extraordinary natural ecosystems and for the permanent good of present and future generations of Americans," has been introduced in the United States House of Representatives; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in 16 U.S.C. 3142 (sec. 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)), the United States Congress reserved the right to permit further oil and gas exploration, development, and production within the coastal plain; and

WHEREAS enhancements in technology can be used in a manner that minimizes the area within the refuge that is used for exploration and development, while providing the nation with a needed supply of oil and gas; and

WHEREAS the oil industry is using innovative technology and environmental practices that are directly applicable to operating on the Arctic coastal plain and that enhance environmental protection beyond traditionally high standards; and

WHEREAS the state will strive to ensure the protection of the land, water, and wildlife resources during the exploration and development of the Arctic coastal plain; and

WHEREAS 8,900,000 of the 19,000,000 acres of the refuge have already been set aside as wilderness;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-Fifth Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to defeat H.R. 39.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Dirk Kempthorne, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jeff Bingaman, Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all members of the 110th United States Congress by electronic transmission.