

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS BJORKMAN, Merrick

Introduced: 4/10/25

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to honor the terms of the Mineral Leasing Act and**
2 **the Alaska Statehood Act and provide the state with a 90 percent share of all bonuses,**
3 **royalties, and rentals received by the federal government from the Arctic National**
4 **Wildlife Refuge and the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature is grateful for the hard work underway by
7 President Trump's Administration to unlock the vast natural resources and economic potential
8 of the state; and

9 **WHEREAS** this state is a young state, the resources of which are vital to maintaining
10 national security, growing the state's economy, and ensuring geopolitical superiority in the
11 Arctic and North Pacific; and

12 **WHEREAS** President Donald J. Trump's 2025 executive order, "Unleashing Alaska's
13 Extraordinary Resource Potential," rescinds cancellation of leases within the coastal plain of
14 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and expedites review of all necessary permits and
15 easements for exploration to facilitate, to the greatest extent possible, the production of oil

1 and gas within the area; and

2 **WHEREAS** the executive order also prioritizes liquefied natural gas development in
3 the state; and

4 **WHEREAS** the executive order highlights the economic and national security
5 benefits for the United States associated with oil and gas development; and

6 **WHEREAS**, when issuing the 2025 Secretary's Order 3422 titled "Unleashing
7 Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential," United States Secretary of the Interior Doug
8 Burgum said that "[i]t's time for the U.S. to embrace Alaska's abundant and largely untapped
9 resources as a pathway to prosperity for the nation" and recognized "the central role the State
10 of Alaska plays in meeting our nation's energy needs"; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in Secretary's Order 3422, Secretary Burgum directed the Department of
12 the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management to pursue reopening up to 82 percent of the
13 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to leasing to expand energy development opportunities
14 in the state for the benefit of the nation; and

15 **WHEREAS** Secretary's Order 3422 further directs the Department of the Interior to
16 convey to the state the land previously withdrawn along the Trans Alaska Pipeline System,
17 paving the way for construction of pipeline for the Alaska Liquefied Natural Gas Project; and

18 **WHEREAS** the state welcomes additional oil production on federal land, while
19 recognizing that lease activity write-offs against producers' tax liability cause a reduction in
20 state revenue; and

21 **WHEREAS** the state's aging transportation infrastructure is expected to require
22 significant repair and upgrades to accommodate the heavy traffic anticipated for the
23 construction of the proposed pipeline for the liquefied natural gas project; and

24 **WHEREAS**, in 1957 and 1958, when considering the admission of the state into the
25 Union as the 49th state, the United States Congress recognized that the state's comparatively
26 small population and limited industrial base would not be able to generate enough revenue to
27 pay for basic state services, especially because the state is geographically isolated and large,
28 covering one-fifth the area of the contiguous 48 states; and

29 **WHEREAS**, in 1957, the United States Congress amended the Mineral Leasing Act
30 of 1920 to grant the Territory of Alaska 90 percent of the proceeds from mineral leases,
31 including oil and gas leases, on federal land in the territory; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in sec. 28 of the Alaska Statehood Act of 1958, the United States
 2 Congress established the right of the state to receive 90 percent of the income derived from
 3 mineral leasing collected from the development of federal land in the state; and

4 **WHEREAS**, during debate over the Alaska Statehood Act, the report from the Senate
 5 Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, speaking to the 90 percent royalty share to Alaska,
 6 "deem[ed] it only fair that when the State relieves the United States of most of its expense
 7 burden, the State should receive a realistic portion of the proceeds from resources within its
 8 borders"; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 1958, Secretary of the Interior Fred Seaton stated that, according to
 10 analysis prepared by the Department of the Interior, the additional costs of statehood would be
 11 offset by the 90 percent in mineral revenue to be provided to the state; and

12 **WHEREAS** that assurance was integral to residents' vote in favor of statehood and
 13 taking on the costs of self-management; and

14 **WHEREAS**, during its deliberations, the United States Congress also acknowledged
 15 concern that previous land reservations and withdrawals had involved some of the most
 16 resource-rich and valuable tracts in the territory, including acreage that is now part of the
 17 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, thus
 18 preventing the state from producing revenue from that land and further justifying that 90
 19 percent of mineral revenue be provided to the state; and

20 **WHEREAS**, when the United States Congress passed the Alaska Statehood Act and
 21 the people of the state voted in referendum to approve it, a compact of the provisions was
 22 created, including the provision to provide 90 percent of mineral revenue from federal land to
 23 the state; and

24 **WHEREAS** the United States Congress enacted legislation that provides for the state
 25 to receive a 50 percent share of the adjusted bonus, rental, and royalty receipts derived from
 26 leasing, exploration, and development of land on the coastal plain of the Arctic National
 27 Wildlife Refuge, in contravention of the percentage share required under the Mineral Leasing
 28 Act and the Alaska Statehood Act; and

29 **WHEREAS** the federal government enacted legislation that provides for the state to
 30 receive a 50 percent share of the adjusted bonus, rental, and royalty receipts derived from
 31 leasing, exploration, and development of land in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska,

1 the majority of which is required to be paid in impact grants to the small number of
2 communities directly impacted by production in the reserve and not available for state use;
3 and

4 **WHEREAS** the decline in oil prices, the decline in the Trans Alaska Pipeline System
5 throughput, and revenue reductions from write-offs on federal lease activity have reduced and
6 will continue to significantly reduce the revenue available to maintain the transportation
7 infrastructure of the state and to fund state government programs necessary to support
8 production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the National Petroleum Reserve in
9 Alaska and construction of a liquefied natural gas pipeline; and

10 **WHEREAS** the state was not allowed to freely select state land as promised under the
11 Alaska Statehood Act, reducing the revenue available to the state from mineral production on
12 state land;

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
14 Congress to honor the terms of the Mineral Leasing Act and the Alaska Statehood Act, which
15 provide that the state receive a 90 percent share of all bonuses, royalties, and rentals under
16 leases received by the federal government for exploration, development, and production in the
17 coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
19 Congress to provide that the state receive a 90 percent share of all bonuses, royalties, and
20 rentals under leases received by the federal government for exploration, development, and
21 production in the coastal plain of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.

22 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of
23 the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader of the
24 U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable John Thune, Majority Leader of the U.S.
25 Senate; the Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
26 Honorable Mike Lee, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources;
27 the Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy
28 and Natural Resources; the Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chair of the U.S. House Committee
29 on Natural Resources; the Honorable Jared Huffman, Ranking Member of the U.S. House
30 Committee on Natural Resources; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan
31 Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S. Representative, members of

1 the Alaska delegation in Congress.