

Alaska House of Representatives

Session: Jan. – Apr.
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Representative Charisse Millett District 30

January 25, 2011
Bill Version: 27-LS0187\M

House Joint Resolution 11 Sponsor Statement

“Urging the United States Congress to refrain from passing legislation that designates land in Area 1002 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness”

House Joint Resolution 18 urges the United States Congress to reject any legislation seeking a wilderness designation for Area 1002 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is drafting a new Comprehensive Conservation Plan for ANWR and the draft report is due out by late March 2011. No matter what the report recommends, it will renew calls for a wilderness designation. Not only will a wilderness designation lock it up – it will throw away the key.

Legislation has already been introduced in the US House of Representatives (H.R. 139) to make the coastal plain of ANWR a wilderness area.

The 1002 Area could be the largest untapped onshore oil prospect in the United States and that makes it both a national refuge and a strategic resource. The two are not incompatible.

Congress deliberately set aside Area 1002 for future oil and gas exploration. Lawmakers at the time understood the day may come when those reserves will be needed to fuel the economy and reduce the flow of imported oil into America.

Alaska needs new jobs to grow its economy and new revenue to fund basic services like education, public safety and transportation infrastructure. America needs a stable, safe and secure supply of energy to help the economy get back on its feet. ANWR can do all of that without harming the fragile arctic environment.

Locking up a two thousand acre area that makes up less than one percent of the refuge and holds an estimated 10,400,000,000 barrels of oil does not make sense for America's economy and national security.

HJR 11 has been referred to the House Resources Committee. For more information, contact Representative Millett at (907) 465-3879.

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