



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
STATE LEGISLATURE

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*House Education Committee
Chair*

HJR 7

Urging Congress to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration, development, and production

Sponsor Statement

House Joint Resolution 7 urges the United States Congress to pass legislation to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas exploration and development.

ANWR remains a key component of our nation's effort to achieve energy independence. When combining environmentally responsible oil production with renewable energy resources like hydro and wind, we can dramatically reduce and perhaps set our sights on eliminating our dependence on crude oil from foreign nations.

Alaska needs the oil and natural gas resources contained within the 1002 Area of ANWR now more than ever. The Congressional Budget Office reports that opening the area to oil and gas drilling could result in \$5 billion in additional receipts over the next 10 years (through leasing) and gross royalties could total between \$25 billion and \$50 billion in the following decade, depending on a series of factors, like the price of oil. Under current law, the lion's share of these dollars would flow directly to Alaska.

Besides funds represented in extracting the resource itself, opening ANWR would bring a bevy of new jobs to grow the Alaskan economy and the revenue that pays for basic state services like education and public safety for generations to come.

A safe, steady supply of domestic oil fuels the state's economy and can help get the nation's economy on its feet: we cannot give up on ANWR.

HJR 7 mirrors and endorses previous Legislature's resolutions in enthusiastically supporting the opening of ANWR for responsible development. It is paramount that the 28th Alaska Legislature joins these past efforts in sending a unified resolution to Congress.

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