



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement SS SJR 3 Endorsing ANWR Leasing

Senate Joint Resolution 3 closely mirrors and endorses multiple previous resolutions in urging the United States Congress to pass legislation to open Alaska's coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration and development. Such development is currently prohibited in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge under The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980.

It is in the national interest to become less dependent on foreign sources for energy. It is in the interest of Alaska to have that energy produced within the state. All oil and gas activities conducted in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will be continuously monitored to ensure wildlife populations and the environment remains healthy. Industry technology has demonstrated that this is possible.

The one change to the resolution passed by the 27th Legislature relates to current pipeline construction activities connecting Port Thompson to the Trans Alaska Pipeline System. The new "Whereas" in this resolution points out that transportation of oil to the TAPS would only require a pipeline connection linking to the Port Thompson extension.

Passage of this resolution by the 28th Legislature continues the message echoed by previous legislatures, our current and past governors, and past and present members of Alaska's congressional delegation.