



Sponsor Statement for HJR 301 – Supporting Oil and Gas Leasing on the Arctic Outer- Continental Shelf

Mere months after approval of a single exploratory well on the Arctic outer-continental shelf, and days after Shell announced it was no longer exploring for oil and gas in the Arctic; the Obama administration and the Department of the Interior cancelled previously scheduled future lease sales in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. At the same time, the United States Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement denied Shell and Statoil requests for lease suspensions in the same areas.

The Alaska House of Representatives opposes these decisions and demands President Obama's administration reconsider its actions and promote oil and gas exploration in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas.

Alaska has a long, proven history of responsibly developing its resources, in line with the Alaska Constitution, "for the maximum benefit of all Alaskans." Oil and gas production has revolutionized Alaska's economy. It's vital to our State's future to be able to continue safely, and sustainably developing our resources.

Quite simply, we're recommending the Federal government reconsider its recent decisions, and NOT stand in the way of vital economic activity in our state. Alaskans have safely developed all types of resources - fisheries, timber, minerals, oil and gas - since statehood. Over that time Alaska State and local governments have developed regulatory practices that work for all stakeholders, and DON'T prohibit the activities that drive our state's economy. We encourage those activities at every level of government in Alaska.

