

ALASKA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

SPONSOR STATEMENT

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE for HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 3 (RES): Urging the governor and the attorney general to pursue all legal and legislative options to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and areas of the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas to oil and gas exploration, development, and production.

House Concurrent Resolution 3 urges the Governor and the Attorney General to “pursue all legal and legislative options to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and areas of the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas to oil and gas exploration and development.”

This resolution is being offered in response to actions taken by the Obama administration that requests Congress to designate the coastal plain of ANWR as wilderness and designating 9.8 million acres in the waters of the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas off Alaska’s coast as off limits to consideration for future oil and gas leasing.

The Alaska Statehood Act recognized the need for resource development to ensure the economic viability of the state; section 6(i) of the Act ensured that the state would have the right to minerals on land received from the federal government and 30 U.S.C. 191 provides for the sharing of federal royalties with the state from federal lands in the state.