

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska

SPONSOR STATEMENT

The National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) is a critical source of oil and gas production in Alaska. One of the biggest Alaska oil development prospects in two decades is on the horizon: the Willow Project, located in the Bear Tooth Unit of the NPR-A.

The Willow project would tap into reserves of an estimated 600 million barrels of oil, and produce 180,000 barrels per day at peak production. This project would generate billions of dollars in local, federal, and state government revenues. The Willow project would create thousands of jobs and the resulting oil will bolster the longevity of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System and enhance its throughput.

On February 1st, 2023, the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Willow Master Plan was released after years of careful review and public scrutiny, paving the way for a final decision. Among the alternatives presented in the final EIS, Alternative E emerged as the sole feasible plan, which entails three drill sites and assures economic viability of the project.

Revenue from the Willow project will produce positive results for the residents of the region for generations. This will come from the subsequent family-supporting jobs, expanded healthcare and education opportunities and overall prosperity. As happened over the past 40 years or more, this project will result in positive health and well-being impacts for Alaskans in every corner of our state.

The Willow project has remarkable backing from North Slope communities, Indigenous leaders, labor unions, and stakeholders from across the political spectrum. The project respects the extensive consultation process and expresses desires of the leadership and residents of the North Slope region. Alaska's entire Congressional Delegation unanimously supports it.

Senate Joint Resolution 7 calls on the Department of the Interior to support the responsible development of resources in the NPR-A. We request the issuance of a positive final record of decision for the Willow Project, recognizing the substantial benefits it would bring to local communities, tribal governments, our state, and our nation.