

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1988

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

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Relating to oil and gas exploration, development, and production within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, and declaring state policy.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS in 1980 the United States Congress suspended the operation of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 191) on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to allow for the study of management alternatives for the coastal plain; and

WHEREAS the coastal plain has been found to have the best potential for onshore oil and gas discoveries in the United States; and

WHEREAS Congress recognized the environmental importance of the coastal plain by placing it in the national wildlife refuge system in 1980, and the wildlife and habitat deserve a high standard of protection if oil exploration and development proceed; and

WHEREAS exploration and development of oil and gas on the coastal plain could reduce the nation's trade deficit, increase energy security, prevent erosion of the oil and gas industry, improve the national and state economies, and occur with full environmental protection and safeguards; and

WHEREAS even when the strictest standards of environmental protection are applied there still can be some risk to land, water, and wildlife from development activity, and Alaskans dependent on subsistence resources of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should be protected in the event that there is any damage to subsistence resources; and

WHEREAS the people of Alaska, based on the provisions of the statehood compact, are to be treated equally and fairly in the

decisions of the United States government regarding revenue sharing, leasing, and development of public lands, including the coastal plain; and

WHEREAS the state's economy is in bad condition, with high unemployment, property foreclosures, and shrinking investment; and

WHEREAS the United States Department of the Interior is exploring a number of legislative proposals for the early oil and gas development of the coastal plain;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature adopts the following consensus points on management of the coastal plain, and strongly urges Congress to act on them:

(1) the United States Congress should open the coastal plain to environmentally responsible oil and gas exploration, development, and production under the authority of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 191);

(2) the United States Congress should provide for maximum participation and job opportunity for Alaska residents in coastal plain exploration and development;

(3) the United States Congress should treat Alaska equally and fairly on revenue issues and not depart from the spirit of the statehood compact; and

(4) the United States Congress should include language in any coastal plain legislation that addresses indemnification for subsistence users in Alaska, as it did in the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act (43 U.S.C. 1653); and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the state administration to be involved in all aspects of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil and gas development process to ensure that the best interests of the state are protected.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George Bush, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable George P. Shultz, Secretary of State; the Honorable Donald P. Hodel, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chairman, and the Honorable James A. McClure, Ranking Minority Member, of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Quentin N. Burdick, Chairman, and the Honorable Robert T. Stafford, Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; the Honorable George J. Mitchell, Chairman, and the Honorable John H. Chafee, Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee on Environmental Protection of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; the Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; the Honorable George Miller, Chairman, and the Honorable Charles Pashayan, Jr., Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; the Honorable Walter B. Jones, Chairman, and the Honorable Robert W. Davis, Ranking Minority Member of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; the Honorable Gerry E. Studds, Chairman of the Subcommittee on

Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.