

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES NAVARRE, Rokeberg, Grussendorf, Brown, Davies, Kubina, MacLean, Green, G.Davis

Introduced: 1/16/95

Referred: House Special Committee on Oil and Gas, Resources, Finance

A RESOLUTION

**1 Endorsing, in principle, legislation authorizing oil and gas leasing, exploration, and
2 development on the coastal plain within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,
3 provided the legislation does not contain a provision decreasing this state's royalty.**

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

5 WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature has previously recognized the importance
6 of reasonable exploration and development of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife
7 Refuge (ANWR) and has adopted resolutions supporting federal legislation to authorize oil and
8 gas leasing, exploration, and development on the coastal plain; and

9 WHEREAS the Alaska Statehood Act contains a binding contract with Alaska that the
10 state will receive 90 percent of all oil, gas, and mineral royalties from federal land in Alaska;
11 and

12 WHEREAS the federal government has both a moral and a legal duty to honor all
13 obligations set out in the several acts admitting new states; and

14 WHEREAS the people of the State of Alaska relied on that royalty sharing provision
15 in ratifying the Alaska Statehood Act; and

16 WHEREAS the United States Congress included that royalty sharing provision in the

1 compact because Alaska, unlike all other public land states, was not covered by the federal
2 Reclamation Act and derived no benefits from that Act; and

3 **WHEREAS** the Congress also intended in the Alaska Statehood Act to compensate
4 Alaska for the large federal land reservations that had the effect of stifling beneficial economic
5 development; and

6 **WHEREAS** the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge comprises a core
7 calving ground of the Porcupine Caribou herd; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Gwich'in Athabascan Indians of northeastern Alaska and northwestern
9 Canada have relied on caribou for subsistence for thousands of years, and continue to subsist
10 on the Porcupine Caribou herd, a herd that is essential to meet the nutritional, cultural, and
11 spiritual needs of the Gwich'in people; and

12 **WHEREAS** 65 percent of the remote communities in Alaska still lack piped water and
13 other essential services and the people of Alaska rely on that royalty sharing provision to
14 address this and other grave health, social, and economic problems; and

15 **WHEREAS** the Congress considered other legislation that authorized oil and gas
16 leasing in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that

17 (1) provided that only 50 percent of royalty revenue from the wildlife refuge
18 would be shared with Alaska, and

19 (2) contained so called "blackmail clauses" that would void any lease sale
20 should the revenue division and sharing provisions be successfully challenged in court; and

21 **WHEREAS** the "blackmail clauses" infringe on this state's constitutional rights
22 because they penalize Alaska if it tries to protect its rights under the Statehood Act;

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Legislature supports in
24 principle federal legislation authorizing oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development on
25 the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but opposes any unilateral reductions
26 in royalty revenue from that exploration and development and any attempts by the Congress
27 or the President to coerce the State of Alaska into accepting less than was promised at
28 statehood; and be it

29 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Congress join with the state in providing strict
30 standards for the protection of land, water, and wildlife resources, including the habitat of the
31 Porcupine Caribou herd, during the exploration and development of the coastal plain of the

1 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

2 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
3 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and president
4 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of
5 Representatives; the Honorable Bob Dole, U.S. Senate Majority Leader; the Honorable Frank
6 Murkowski, Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable
7 Don Young, Chair of the House Committee on Public Lands and Resources; the Honorable
8 Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens, U.S. Senator, the
9 remaining member of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the governors and the
10 presiding officers of the houses of the state legislatures.