

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROKEBERG, Hodgins

Introduced: 1/16/97

Referred: House Special Committee on Oil and Gas, Resources

A RESOLUTION

**1 Urging the United States Congress to pass legislation to open the coastal plain
2 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, to oil and gas exploration,
3 development, and production.**

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

5 WHEREAS, in sec. 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
6 (ANILCA), the United States Congress reserved the right to permit further oil and gas
**7 exploration, development, and production within the coastal plain of the Arctic National
8 Wildlife Refuge, Alaska; and**

9 WHEREAS the oil industry, the state, and the United States Department of the Interior
**10 consider the coastal plain to have the highest potential for discovery of very large oil and gas
11 accumulations on the continent of North America, estimated to be as much as 10,000,000,000
12 barrels of recoverable oil; and**

13 WHEREAS the residents of the North Slope Borough, within which the coastal plain
14 is located, are supportive of development in the "1002 study area"; and

15 WHEREAS oil and gas exploration and development of the coastal plain of the refuge
16 and adjacent land could result in major discoveries that would reduce our nation's future need

1 for imported oil, help balance the nation's trade deficit, and significantly increase the nation's
2 security; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1996, more than one-half of the oil used in the United States has come
4 from foreign sources as domestic crude oil production fell to 6,600,000 barrels a day, its
5 lowest annual level since 1954; and

6 **WHEREAS** development of oil at Prudhoe Bay, Kuparuk, Endicott, Lisburne, and
7 Milne Point has resulted in thousands of jobs throughout the United States, and projected job
8 creation as a result of coastal plain oil development will have a positive effect in all 50 states;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS** Prudhoe Bay production is declining by approximately 10 percent a year;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS** opening the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge now
13 allows sufficient time for planning environmental safeguards, development, and national
14 security review; and

15 **WHEREAS** the oil and gas industry and related state employment have been severely
16 affected by reduced oil and gas activity, and the reduction in industry investment and
17 employment has broad implications for the state work force and the entire state economy; and

18 **WHEREAS** the 1,500,000 acre coastal plain of the refuge comprises only eight percent
19 of the 19,000,000 acre refuge, and the development of the oil and gas reserves in the refuge's
20 coastal plain would affect an area of only 5,000 to 7,000 acres, which is one and one-half
21 percent of the area of the coastal plain; and

22 **WHEREAS** 8,000,000 of the 19,000,000 acres of the refuge have already been set
23 aside as wilderness; and

24 **WHEREAS** the oil industry has shown at Prudhoe Bay, as well as at other locations
25 along the Arctic coastal plain, that it can safely conduct oil and gas activity without adversely
26 affecting the environment or wildlife populations;

27 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of the United
28 States is urged to pass legislation to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife
29 Refuge, Alaska, to oil and gas exploration, development, and production; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that that activity be conducted in a manner that protects the
31 environment and uses the state's work force to the maximum extent possible.

1 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
2 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and president
3 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Newt
4 Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority
5 Leader of the United States Senate; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
6 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
7 the Alaskan delegation in Congress; and to all other members of the United States Senate and
8 the United States House of Representatives serving in the 105th United States Congress.