

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 39

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/16/00

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

**1 Encouraging the United States Congress to pass S. 2214, a bill opening the
2 coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to responsible exploration,
3 development, and production of its oil and gas resources.**

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

5 WHEREAS, in 1973, during the Arab oil embargo, the United States was 36 percent
**6 dependent on foreign supplies, while today the United States relies on imports to supply over
7 56 percent of its energy consumption; and**

8 WHEREAS, in the last eight years, the nation's demand for petroleum products has
9 grown by 14 percent while domestic production has declined by 17 percent; and

10 WHEREAS, by 2020, the United States expects to be 64 percent dependent on other
11 countries to fuel its industry, transportation, and homes; and

12 WHEREAS United States consumers are paying the price, with home heating oil costs
**13 in the Northeastern states surpassing \$1.70 a gallon, while gasoline prices have climbed to \$2
14 a gallon for mid-range gasoline in California; and**

15 WHEREAS some airplane passengers are currently paying a \$20 fuel surcharge on
16 tickets; and

1 **WHEREAS** the nation's growing reliance on foreign oil is strengthening the aggressive
2 pricing policies of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC); and

3 **WHEREAS** the United States is currently receiving 44 percent of its imported oil from
4 OPEC countries, including 1,400,000 barrels a day from Saudi Arabia and 700,000 barrels a
5 day from Iraq; and

6 **WHEREAS** Iraq has emerged as the fastest growing source of United States oil
7 imports; and

8 **WHEREAS** the United States is spending \$300,000,000 a day on foreign oil,
9 accounting for one-third of the entire trade deficit; and

10 **WHEREAS** the United States Secretary of energy recently visited the OPEC countries
11 of Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait and non-OPEC member Mexico to urge increased
12 production, but did not visit Alaska; and

13 **WHEREAS** replacing sport utility vehicles with cars that use alternative fuels or are
14 more energy-efficient is a goal to be applauded and encouraged, but will happen only in the
15 future; and

16 **WHEREAS** it will take 10,000 dockings of foreign supertankers carrying 500,000
17 barrels of oil each to provide 65 percent of the nation's oil needs in 2020; and

18 **WHEREAS**, if the United States is going to reduce its dependence on foreign oil, it
19 must look toward domestic sources, including Alaska's Arctic; and

20 **WHEREAS** federal legislation has been introduced by Senator Murkowski calling for
21 the opening of the 1,500,000-acre coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to
22 environmentally sound exploration, development, and production of oil and gas resources; and

23 **WHEREAS** the coastal plain is America's best possibility for the discovery of another
24 giant, Prudhoe Bay-sized oil and gas discovery in North America; and

25 **WHEREAS**, in 1998, a three-year study by the United States Geological Survey
26 estimated the recoverable oil potential of the coastal plain to be as high as 16,000,000,000
27 barrels of oil, which could replace Saudi oil imports to the United States for 30 years; and

28 **WHEREAS** the vast majority of Alaskans, including the Native residents of Kaktovik,
29 the only community located in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, supports coastal plain
30 development; and

31 **WHEREAS** coastal plain development could provide hundreds of thousands of jobs

1 and billions of dollars in government revenue, and could contribute billions of dollars to the
2 nation's economy;

3 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Legislature supports Alaska's role in providing
4 this nation with a major portion of its domestic oil and encourages the United States Congress
5 to pass S. 2214, a bill opening the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to
6 responsible exploration, development, and production of its oil and gas resources; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Legislature opposes any efforts to declare
8 the coastal plain a national monument.

9 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
10 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President
11 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, United States Secretary of the Interior; the
12 Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable
13 Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
14 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
15 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to all other members of the U.S. Senate
16 and the U.S. House of Representatives serving in the 106th United States Congress.