

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/25/07

Referred: Resources

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Urging the United States Congress to defeat House Resolution 39, titled "To preserve**  
2 **the Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, as wilderness in**  
3 **recognition of its extraordinary natural ecosystems and for the permanent good of**  
4 **present and future generations of Americans."**

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

6 **WHEREAS** House Resolution 39, titled "To preserve the Arctic coastal plain of the  
7 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, as wilderness in recognition of its extraordinary  
8 natural ecosystems and for the permanent good of present and future generations of  
9 Americans," has been introduced in the United States House of Representatives; and

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

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

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

3 **WHEREAS** in 16 U.S.C. 3142 (sec. 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands  
4 Conservation Act (ANCILA)), the United States Congress reserved the right to permit further  
5 oil and gas exploration, development, and production within the coastal plain; and

6 **WHEREAS** enhancements in technology can be used in a manner that minimizes the  
7 area within the refuge that is used for exploration and development, while providing the  
8 nation with a needed supply of oil and gas; and

9 **WHEREAS** the oil industry is using innovative technology and environmental  
10 practices that are directly applicable to operating on the Arctic coastal plain and that enhance  
11 environmental protection beyond traditionally high standards; and

12 **WHEREAS** the state will ensure the protection of the land, water, and wildlife  
13 resources during the exploration and development of the Arctic coastal plain; and

14 **WHEREAS** 8,900,000 of the 19,000,000 acres of the refuge have already been set  
15 aside as wilderness;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Twenty-Fifty Alaska State Legislature urges the United  
17 States Congress to defeat House Resolution 39.

18 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President  
19 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States  
20 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Dirk Kempthorne, United States Secretary of  
21 the Interior; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the  
22 Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the  
23 Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell,  
24 Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jeff Bingaman, Chair of the Energy and  
25 Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the  
26 Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.  
27 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all members of the 110th  
28 United States Congress by electronic transmission.