

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/3/07

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION

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

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

6 **WHEREAS** H.R. 39, titled "To preserve the Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic
7 National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, as wilderness in recognition of its extraordinary natural
8 ecosystems and for the permanent good of present and future generations of Americans," has
9 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 (ANILCA)), 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-Fifth Alaska State Legislature urges the United
17 States Congress to defeat H.R. 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.