

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MILLETT, Stoltze, Lynn, Johnson, Neuman, Keller, Ramras, Wilson, Kelly

Introduced: 2/11/09

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to refrain from passing legislation that designates**
2 **land in Area 1002 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of the Interior estimates that there may be
5 10,000,000,000 recoverable barrels of oil and significant quantities of natural gas in the Arctic
6 National Wildlife Refuge; and

7 **WHEREAS** development of the oil reserves in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
8 would reduce the dependence of the United States on unstable sources of foreign oil and
9 would make the economy of the United States stronger and more stable; and

10 **WHEREAS** the economy of the United States would suffer further if the large natural
11 gas resources in Area 1002 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are not available for
12 transportation in the proposed Alaska natural gas pipeline; and

13 **WHEREAS** clean-burning natural gas delivered by way of the proposed Alaska
14 natural gas pipeline could be used as an environmentally friendly energy source for homes
15 and businesses in the lower 48 states for decades to come; and

16 **WHEREAS** new technology and environmental practices used by the oil and gas

1 industry provide for efficient production and environmental protection; and

2 **WHEREAS** 8,900,000 acres of the 19,000,000 acres in the Arctic National Wildlife
3 Refuge are already designated as wilderness areas; and

4 **WHEREAS** the United States Congress, in 16 U.S.C. 3121 (sec. 1002 of the Alaska
5 National Interest Lands Conservation Act), authorized oil and gas exploratory activity within
6 the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and reserved the right to enact future
7 laws to allow for entry into and development of oil and gas resources in the Arctic National
8 Wildlife Refuge;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
10 Congress to preserve its right to enact a law providing for the environmentally responsible
11 exploration and development of oil and gas resources in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
12 by not passing any legislation that designates land in Area 1002 of the Arctic National
13 Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

14 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
15 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
16 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ken Salazar, United States Secretary of the
17 Interior; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
18 Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
19 Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell,
20 Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jeff Bingaman, Chair of the Energy and
21 Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
22 Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
23 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 111th United
24 States Congress.