

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI

Introduced: 3/20/09
Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Expressing support for environmentally sound and culturally sensitive development of**
2 **the oil and gas resources in federal waters offshore of Alaska's coast as a means to**
3 **ensure energy independence, security for the nation, and jobs for Alaskans; and urging**
4 **the United States Congress to provide a means for consistently sharing with all coastal**
5 **energy-producing states, on an ongoing basis, revenue generated from oil and gas**
6 **development on the outer continental shelf, to ensure that those states develop, support,**
7 **and maintain necessary infrastructure and preserve environmental integrity.**

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

9 **WHEREAS** there are presently 697 active oil and gas leases off Alaska's coast,
10 covering more than 1,500,000 hectares; and

11 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of the Interior, Minerals Management
12 Service, estimates there are nearly 27,000,000,000 barrels of oil and 132,000,000,000,000
13 cubic feet of natural gas that are technically recoverable offshore of Alaska; and

14 **WHEREAS** environmentally responsible and culturally sensitive oil and gas

1 development in federal waters off Alaska's coast would significantly decrease reliance by the
2 United States on foreign oil and gas, making the United States more energy independent and
3 enhancing our national security; and

4 **WHEREAS**, under the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, the federal government
5 shares with the states 50 percent of revenue from mineral production on federal land within
6 each state's boundaries; and

7 **WHEREAS** the shared mineral production revenue is distributed to the states
8 automatically, outside of the budget process, and is not subject to appropriation; and

9 **WHEREAS**, other than in water immediately adjacent to a state's coastline, there is
10 not a similar authority for the federal government to share federal oil and gas revenue
11 generated on the outer continental shelf with adjacent coastal states, despite the vital
12 contribution made by those states to our nation's energy, economic, and national security
13 needs in support of production from the outer continental shelf; and

14 **WHEREAS** the states that sustain this critical energy production and development
15 deserve a share of the revenue generated because they provide infrastructure to support
16 offshore operations and because of the environmental effects and other risks associated with
17 oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf; and

18 **WHEREAS**, under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, the federal
19 government recognized the contributions made by Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and
20 Texas to national security and agreed to give them 37.5 percent of revenue from oil and gas
21 development in newly leased federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico; and

22 **WHEREAS** other coastal states, including Alaska and California, also support and
23 should receive, on a regular and ongoing basis, a fair share of revenue generated through
24 development on the outer continental shelf as compensation and reward for their contributions
25 to the nation's energy supply, security, and economy; and

26 **WHEREAS**, since statehood, oil and gas production from the outer continental shelf
27 off Alaska's coast has generated millions of dollars in revenue for the federal government; and

28 **WHEREAS** the February 2008 lease sale in the Chukchi Sea generated an additional
29 \$2,600,000,000 in revenue for the federal government;

30 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports environmentally sound
31 and culturally sensitive development of the oil and gas resources in federal waters offshore of

1 Alaska's coast as a means to ensure energy independence, security for the nation, and jobs for
2 Alaskans; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
4 Congress to provide a means for consistently sharing, on an ongoing basis, revenue generated
5 from oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf with all coastal energy-producing
6 states to ensure that those states develop, support, and maintain necessary infrastructure and
7 preserve environmental integrity.

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