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**CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16(RES)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 3/30/09**

**Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, Dyson, Wagoner, Thomas, Olson, Davis, Ellis, Paskvan, Menard, Stevens**

**REPRESENTATIVES Guttenberg, Tuck, Johnson, Kawasaki, Crawford**

**A RESOLUTION**

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

1 would significantly decrease reliance by the United States on foreign oil and gas, making the  
2 United States more energy independent and enhancing our national security; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 **WHEREAS**, since statehood, oil and gas lease sales from the outer continental shelf  
26 off Alaska's coast have generated millions of dollars in revenue for the federal government;  
27 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 responsible  
31 development of the oil and gas resources in federal waters offshore of Alaska's coast as a

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

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