

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7(RES)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 3/1/13**

**Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES GATTIS, Nageak, Pruitt, Johnson, Thompson, Tuck, Herron, Peggy Wilson, Foster, Tammie Wilson, Lynn, Hughes, Higgins, Muñoz, Holmes, Millett, Costello, Neuman, Austerman, Feige, Keller, Chenault, Gruenberg, Olson, Stoltze, Reinbold, Gara, Saddler, LeDoux, Hawker, Edgmon, Isaacson**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Urging the United States Congress to pass legislation to open the coastal plain of the**  
2 **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration, development, and**  
3 **production; urging the United States Department of the Interior to recognize the private**  
4 **property rights of owners of land in and adjacent to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge;**  
5 **relating to oil and gas exploration, development, production, and royalties; and relating**  
6 **to renewable and alternative energy technologies.**

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

8 **WHEREAS**, in 16 U.S.C. 3142 (sec. 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands  
9 Conservation Act), the United States Congress reserved the right to permit further oil and gas  
10 exploration, development, and production within the coastal plain of the Arctic National  
11 Wildlife Refuge; and

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

1 10,000,000,000 barrels of recoverable oil; and

2 **WHEREAS** the "1002 study area" is part of the coastal plain located within the North  
3 Slope Borough, and many of the residents of the North Slope Borough, who are  
4 predominantly Inupiat Eskimo, are supportive of development in the "1002 study area"; and

5 **WHEREAS** oil and gas exploration and development of the coastal plain of the refuge  
6 and adjacent land could result in major discoveries that would reduce our nation's future need  
7 for imported oil, help balance the nation's trade deficit, and significantly increase the nation's  
8 security; and

9 **WHEREAS** the state's and the nation's future energy independence would be  
10 enhanced with additional natural gas production from the North Slope of Alaska, including  
11 what are expected to be significant gas reserves in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

12 **WHEREAS** the development of gas reserves on the North Slope would enhance the  
13 economic viability of the proposed Alaska natural gas pipeline; and

14 **WHEREAS** domestic demand for oil continues to rise, while domestic crude  
15 production continues to fall, with the result that the United States must import additional oil  
16 from foreign sources; and

17 **WHEREAS** development of oil at Prudhoe Bay, Kuparuk, Endicott, Lisburne, and  
18 Milne Point has resulted in thousands of jobs throughout the United States; and

19 **WHEREAS** projected job creation as a result of coastal plain oil development will  
20 have a positive effect in all 50 states; and

21 **WHEREAS** North Slope production is declining; and

22 **WHEREAS** the Trans Alaska Pipeline System, a transportation facility that is a  
23 national asset and that would cost billions of dollars to replace, would have its useful physical  
24 life extended for a substantial period if the additional reserves of recoverable oil from the  
25 coastal plain were produced; and

26 **WHEREAS**, while new oil field developments on the North Slope of Alaska, such as  
27 Alpine, Northstar, and West Sak, may temporarily slow the decline in production, only giant  
28 coastal plain fields have the theoretical capability of increasing the production volume of  
29 Alaska oil to a significant degree; and

30 **WHEREAS** opening the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge now  
31 will allow sufficient time for planning environmental safeguards, development, and national

1 security review; and

2 **WHEREAS** the 1,500,000-acre coastal plain of the refuge makes up only eight  
3 percent of the 19,000,000-acre refuge; and

4 **WHEREAS** the development of the oil and gas reserves in the refuge's coastal plain  
5 would affect only 2,000 to 7,000 acres, which is less than one-half of one percent of the  
6 coastal plain; and

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

9 **WHEREAS** the oil industry has shown at Prudhoe Bay and other locations along the  
10 Arctic coastal plain that it is capable of conducting oil and gas activity without adversely  
11 affecting the environment, including wildlife populations; and

12 **WHEREAS** the state will strive to ensure the continued health and productivity of the  
13 Porcupine caribou herd and the protection of land, water, and wildlife resources during the  
14 exploration and development of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

15 **WHEREAS** the oil and gas industry is developing directional drilling technology that  
16 will allow horizontal drilling in a responsible manner by minimizing the development  
17 footprint within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

18 **WHEREAS** directional drilling technology may be capable of drilling from outside of  
19 the boundaries of the 1002 study area; and

20 **WHEREAS** the oil industry is using innovative technology and environmental  
21 practices in the new field developments at Alpine and Northstar; and

22 **WHEREAS** those techniques can operate on the coastal plain and would provide even  
23 greater protection than current traditionally high standards; and

24 **WHEREAS** the continued competitiveness and stability of the state and its economy  
25 require that the Alaska State Legislature enhance the national trend for renewable energy  
26 development; and

27 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature encourages the use of revenue from the  
28 development of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for the development of renewable and  
29 alternative energy resources in the state;

30 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States  
31 Congress to pass legislation to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

1 to oil and gas exploration, development, and production as quickly as possible; and be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges that oil and gas  
3 exploration, development, and production activity be conducted in a manner that protects the  
4 environment and the naturally occurring population levels of the Porcupine caribou herd, on  
5 which the Inupiat, Gwich'in, and other local residents depend, that uses directional drilling  
6 and other advances in technology to minimize the development footprint in the 1002 study  
7 area, and that uses the state's workforce to the maximum extent possible; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States  
9 Congress to pass legislation opening the 1002 study area, for oil and gas development while  
10 continuing to work on measures for increasing the development and use of renewable and  
11 alternative energy technologies; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States  
13 Department of the Interior to recognize and respect the rights of Native landowners in and  
14 adjacent to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 1002 study area, including the rights of the  
15 Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation to develop their land  
16 and resource entitlements received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other  
17 agreements; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes any unilateral  
19 reduction in royalty revenue from exploration and development of the coastal plain of the  
20 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and also opposes any attempt to coerce the State of Alaska  
21 into accepting less than the 90 percent of the oil, gas, and mineral royalties from federal lands  
22 in the state that was promised to the state at statehood.

23 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of  
24 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and  
25 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ken Salazar, United States Secretary of the  
26 Interior; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the  
27 Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the  
28 Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell,  
29 Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ron Wyden, Chair of the Energy and  
30 Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S.  
31 Senator and ranking member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the U.S.

- 1 Senate, the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senator, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
- 2 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the
- 3 113th United States Congress.