

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10(RES)**

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

**TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 2/4/15**

**Referred: Today's Calendar**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES NAGEAK, Chenault, Millett, Johnson, Hawker, Olson, Herron, Neuman, Wilson, Hughes, Saddler, Tilton, Stutes, Pruitt, Colver, Talerico, Gattis, Lynn, Thompson, Muñoz, Reinbold, Tuck, LeDoux**

**SENATORS Stoltze, Dunleavy, Kelly, McGuire, Costello, Coghill, Micciche, Bishop, Egan, Giessel, MacKinnon, Huggins, Meyer**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Opposing the revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact**  
2 **Statement for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; opposing attempts by President**  
3 **Obama to alter management of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge;**  
4 **encouraging the United States Congress to reject a proposal based on the revised**  
5 **Comprehensive Conservation Plan or accompanying Environmental Impact Statement;**  
6 **and encouraging the United States Congress to reject a proposal that does not open the**  
7 **coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development.**

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

9 **WHEREAS**, in 1980, the United States Congress enacted the Alaska National Interest  
10 Lands Conservation Act, transferring approximately 105,000,000 acres of public lands to  
11 various conservation units; and

12 **WHEREAS** 105,000,000 acres is more land than contained in the State of California;  
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, if the land contained in conservation units developed under the Alaska

1 National Interest Lands Conservation Act were a state, it would be the third largest state in the  
2 United States; and

3 **WHEREAS**, with passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act,  
4 the United States Congress explicitly stated, in sec. 101(d), that the "Act provides sufficient  
5 protection for the national interest in the scenic, natural, cultural and environmental values on  
6 the public lands in Alaska" and that the need for additional conservation areas had been  
7 obviated; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act also prohibited  
9 further studies of federal land in the state for "the single purpose of considering the  
10 establishment of a conservation system unit, national recreation area, national conservation  
11 area, or for related or similar purpose . . . unless authorized by this Act or further Act of  
12 Congress"; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in sec. 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the  
14 United States Congress specifically set aside, and reserved ultimate decisions to the United  
15 States Congress about the management of 1,500,000 acres of the coastal plain of the Arctic  
16 National Wildlife Refuge; and

17 **WHEREAS** the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is estimated to  
18 contain between 5,700,000,000 and 16,000,000,000 barrels of oil, with a mean recoverable  
19 estimate of 10,300,000,000 barrels of oil; and

20 **WHEREAS** the oil resources estimated to be recoverable from the coastal plain  
21 represent potential state and federal revenue in the hundreds of billions of dollars over the life  
22 of production and a resource of significant national interest; and

23 **WHEREAS** the village of Kaktovik lies within the coastal plain, and there are  
24 significant lands within the coastal plain that belong to the village of Kaktovik and the Arctic  
25 Slope Regional Corporation and are of vital interest to the Native residents; and

26 **WHEREAS** the coastal plain lies within the boundaries of the state and North Slope  
27 Borough and is of special significance to the residents of the state and the borough; and

28 **WHEREAS** a minimal number of recreationists, estimated to be 250, visit the coastal  
29 plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in any given year; and

30 **WHEREAS** the revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic National  
31 Wildlife Refuge proposes to manage the entire Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, including the

1 coastal plain, as wilderness; and

2 **WHEREAS** the wilderness designation would create practical limits to oil and gas  
3 development and general economic development and potential limits to vital subsistence  
4 activities; and

5 **WHEREAS** the original 1988 Comprehensive Conservation Plan involved far more  
6 data gathering than the current Comprehensive Conservation Plan, including the incorporation  
7 of studies by the United States Geological Survey, the United States Bureau of Land  
8 Management, and other services in the United States Department of the Interior; and

9 **WHEREAS** the original 1988 Comprehensive Conservation Plan fully recommended  
10 exploration for oil and gas and stated that any effect on the area would be minimal and could  
11 be mitigated; and

12 **WHEREAS** the revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan does not contain the force  
13 of law and is only a recommendation on management practices; and

14 **WHEREAS** the revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan is a violation of the "No  
15 More Clause" of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, that limits the addition  
16 of wilderness lands in the state to 5,000 acres; and

17 **WHEREAS** the United States Fish and Wildlife Service claims that the creation of the  
18 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a refuge already takes the land out of use or potential use;  
19 and

20 **WHEREAS** all the goals of the revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan can be  
21 achieved without declaring wilderness; Prudhoe Bay has demonstrated that both a strict  
22 environmental land management policy and development can exist side by side with no  
23 destruction of land, ecology nor negative effect on caribou; and

24 **WHEREAS** the revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan violates the National  
25 Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as neither a study for wilderness nor the declaration of  
26 wilderness can take place without the consideration of "all alternative land uses"; and

27 **WHEREAS** sec. 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act  
28 requires that studies be performed to provide information to the United States Congress; the  
29 mandated studies include not only a study of wildlife resources, but also an analysis of the  
30 potential effects of oil and gas exploration and development on those resources and a  
31 delineation of the extent and amount of potential petroleum resources; and

1           **WHEREAS** the revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan completely ignores the  
2 requirement to study the potential effects of oil and gas exploration and development; and

3           **WHEREAS** oil and gas exploration and development on the coastal plain of the  
4 refuge and adjacent land could result in major discoveries that would reduce our nation's  
5 dependency on oil produced by hostile foreign nations, help balance the nation's trade deficit,  
6 and significantly increase the nation's security; and

7           **WHEREAS** the revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan has an accompanying  
8 Environmental Impact Statement;

9           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly opposes the United  
10 States Fish and Wildlife Services' revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and  
11 Environmental Impact Statement and any recommendation by President Obama based on that  
12 Plan; and be it

13           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature vehemently opposes any  
14 attempt by the Administration to alter the management or status of the coastal plain of the  
15 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and be it

16           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly encourages each  
17 member of the United States Congress to reject any proposal that is based on the revised  
18 Comprehensive Conservation Plan or accompanying Environmental Impact Statement; and be  
19 it

20           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly encourages each  
21 member of the United States Congress to reject any proposal that does not explicitly and,  
22 without delay, open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas  
23 development so that local residents and residents of the state and nation can realize the vast  
24 economic and financial benefits of the immediate development of the coastal plain.

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

1 Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator,  
2 and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in  
3 Congress; and all other members of the 114th United States Congress.