

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6(RES) am**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Amended: 2/20/23

Offered: 2/20/23

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES PATKOTAK, Rauscher, Fields, Tomaszewski, Stapp, Cronk, Carpenter, Prax, McKay, Saddler, Vance, D.Johnson, Sumner, Ruffridge, Tilton, C.Johnson, Edgmon, McCabe, McCormick, Coulombe, Foster, Shaw, Schrage, Stutes, Galvin, Allard, Ortiz, Groh, Eastman, Josephson

SENATORS Merrick, Hughes, Wilson, Kaufman, Wielechowski, Hoffman, Stedman, Olson, Bishop, Giessel, Bjorkman, Gray-Jackson, Shower, Stevens

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Supporting oil and gas leasing and development within the National Petroleum Reserve**  
 2 **in Alaska; and urging President Biden and the United States Department of the Interior**  
 3 **to approve the Willow Master Development Plan.**

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

5 **WHEREAS**, in 1923, President Warren G. Harding issued an Executive Order  
 6 establishing Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 on the North Slope region to provide a potential  
 7 supply of oil for the United States Navy; and

8 **WHEREAS** 42 U.S.C. 6501 (Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976)  
 9 redesignated Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 as the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska  
 10 and transferred responsibility for its administration to the Secretary of the Interior; and

11 **WHEREAS** the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska encompasses 23,500,000  
 12 acres, with boundaries extending south from Icy Cape to the drainage divide of the Brooks  
 13 Range, then following the divide eastward to 156 degrees west longitude, then north to the  
 14 Colville River, and following the Colville River downstream to its mouth; and

1           **WHEREAS** the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska falls entirely within the  
2 boundary of the North Slope Borough and includes the communities of Anaktuvuk Pass,  
3 Atqasuk, Nuiqsut, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright; and

4           **WHEREAS**, in 2017, the United States Geological Survey estimated there to be  
5 8,700,000,000 barrels of recoverable oil and 25,000,000,000,000 cubic feet of recoverable gas  
6 reserves in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

7           **WHEREAS** the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan  
8 and Environmental Impact Statement estimates potential annual government revenue,  
9 including local, state, and federal taxes and royalties, of \$730,000,000 to \$4,750,000,000 from  
10 oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

11           **WHEREAS** the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan  
12 and Environmental Impact Statement estimates that the exploration, development, and  
13 production of oil and gas in the reserve could generate 3,600 direct jobs and 2,750 indirect  
14 jobs annually over a period of 30 years; and

15           **WHEREAS** the Willow oil and gas prospect, known as the Willow project, is located  
16 in the Bear Tooth Unit of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and would be the  
17 farthest-west producing field on the North Slope; and

18           **WHEREAS** the Willow project would tap into reserves of an estimated 600,000,000  
19 barrels of oil and, at peak production, produce 180,000 barrels a day; and

20           **WHEREAS** the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Willow  
21 Master Development Plan was developed over multiple years through a rigorous process with  
22 significant involvement by and support from local communities and Alaska Native entities  
23 and was specifically designed to protect surface values and the Inupiat way of life; and

24           **WHEREAS**, on February 1, 2023, the United States Department of the Interior  
25 released its Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Willow project,  
26 which demonstrates that the project is legally sufficient and environmentally sound; and

27           **WHEREAS** the Inupiat people are the longstanding stewards of the land on which the  
28 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska sits, and take seriously the need for careful and  
29 balanced stewardship; and

30           **WHEREAS** the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, the Inupiat Community of the  
31 Arctic Slope, the North Slope Borough, the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Alaska Native

1 Village Corporation Association, the ANCSA Regional Association, the City of Utqiagvik,  
2 the City of Wainwright, the City of Atqasuk, and the Kuukpik Corporation are all united in  
3 support of the Willow project; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Willow project has received the support of labor unions and trade  
5 groups, including the Alaska Petroleum Joint Crafts Council, the Alaska Support Industry  
6 Alliance, the Alaska AFL-CIO, the International Union of Operating Engineers, the Laborers'  
7 International Union of North America, the National Association of Manufacturers, the North  
8 America's Building Trades Unions, and the Alaska Chamber of Commerce; and

9 **WHEREAS** Representative Mary Peltola, Senator Lisa Murkowski, and Senator Dan  
10 Sullivan, the Alaska delegation in Congress, unanimously support approval of the Willow  
11 project; and

12 **WHEREAS** state royalties from oil and gas development in the National Petroleum  
13 Reserve in Alaska are allocated to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Impact  
14 Mitigation Fund, which is used to provide the local communities of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atqasuk,  
15 Nuiqsut, Wainwright, Utqiagvik, and the North Slope Borough with grants to mitigate  
16 impacts related to oil and gas development; and

17 **WHEREAS** oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska  
18 would strengthen national security and provide long-lasting benefits to the national economy  
19 by creating thousands of jobs nationwide, generating billions of dollars in government  
20 revenue, providing affordable energy to American consumers, and decreasing dependence on  
21 foreign energy; and

22 **WHEREAS** resource development in the state has benefited rural communities by  
23 bringing family-supporting jobs and wages, increased educational opportunities, safe water  
24 and wastewater facilities, and expanded health care services to those communities; and

25 **WHEREAS**, because of resource development, compared with the national average,  
26 rural areas of the state experienced greater increases in life expectancy between 1980 and  
27 2014 in locations where resource development activities, including oil and gas development,  
28 mining, and fisheries operations, have occurred; and

29 **WHEREAS** safe and responsible oil and gas exploration, development, and  
30 production has been demonstrated by over 50 years of activity on the North Slope region  
31 without adverse effects on the environment or wildlife populations; and

1           **WHEREAS** the state's leadership in the nation's energy future includes robust support  
2 for the development and implementation of renewable energy systems and sources to ensure  
3 that cost-effective energy and power are provided to communities and individuals in the state;  
4 and

5           **WHEREAS** responsible resource development today equips communities in the state  
6 to make investments in technology and infrastructure to support the use of renewable sources  
7 of energy and power; and

8           **WHEREAS** the Willow project is an important part of a diverse energy future for the  
9 state and the nation;

10          **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States  
11 Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, to maximize the area available for  
12 oil and gas leasing and development within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska while  
13 conserving and protecting valued fish, wildlife, subsistence, and cultural resources; and be it

14          **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges President Biden and  
15 the United States Department of the Interior to move forward with final approval of the  
16 Willow project by selecting the preferred Alternative E plan, which allows three drill sites, the  
17 minimum for the project to remain economically viable; and be it

18          **FURTHER RESOLVED** that a further delay in approval or construction of the  
19 Willow project undermines the values and benefits of the project to the state and its residents  
20 and the nation and is not in the public interest; and be it

21          **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States  
22 Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, when considering management  
23 activities related to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, to take into account the long  
24 history of safe and responsible oil and gas development on the North Slope region and the  
25 enormous benefits that development of oil and gas resources in the National Petroleum  
26 Reserve in Alaska would bring to local communities, tribal governments, the state, and the  
27 nation.

28          **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President  
29 of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and  
30 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Deb Haaland, United States Secretary of the  
31 Interior; the Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management, U.S.

1 Department of the Interior; Steve Cohn, Alaska State Director, Bureau of Land Management,  
2 U.S. Department of the Interior; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan  
3 Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Mary Peltola, U.S. Representative, members of  
4 the Alaska delegation in Congress.