

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES RAUSCHER, Saddler**

**Introduced: 1/22/25**

**Referred: Resources**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Urging the United States Congress and the Trump administration to reverse the**  
2 **outgoing presidential administration's administrative decision to ban offshore oil and**  
3 **gas leasing and to safeguard the state and national economy, energy security, and**  
4 **interests.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** the state has a long history of safe and responsible resource development,  
7 including offshore oil and gas activities, which have sustained the state's economy, created  
8 jobs, and provided affordable energy for residents; and

9 **WHEREAS** the outgoing presidential administration used the Outer Continental Shelf  
10 Lands Act of 1953 to administratively withdraw approximately 625,000,000 acres of the  
11 federal Outer Continental Shelf from potential oil and gas development, including the entire  
12 east and west coasts of the United States, the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, and tens of millions of  
13 acres offshore of the state; and

14 **WHEREAS** the state has continually faced federal restrictions on offshore resource  
15 development, with more and more of its outer continental shelf withdrawn from leasing, while

1 the federal government has failed to promote development in critical areas like Cook Inlet,  
2 where resource development is necessary to prevent energy shortages; and

3 **WHEREAS** the Southcentral region of the state is on the verge of energy shortages  
4 because of insufficient natural gas production in Cook Inlet, forcing the state to consider  
5 costly liquefied natural gas imports that would burden state residents and businesses; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 grants the President  
7 authority to withdraw unleased land from mineral leasing under Section 12(a), but using that  
8 authority to withdraw leases adjacent to the state prevents future administrations and  
9 Congress from exercising flexibility to make informed decisions about the energy portfolio of  
10 the nation; and

11 **WHEREAS** responsible offshore oil and gas development is essential for maintaining  
12 the state's economy, sustaining family-supporting jobs, ensuring affordable energy for  
13 residents, and supporting national energy independence and security; and

14 **WHEREAS** the outgoing Biden administration has prioritized restrictions over  
15 collaboration, resulting in an unbalanced energy policy that fails to address the immediate and  
16 long-term needs of the state and the nation;

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly opposes the outgoing  
18 Biden administration's action withdrawing 625,000,000 acres of federal Outer Continental  
19 Shelf land from potential oil and gas development; and be it

20 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the incoming Trump  
21 administration and the United States Congress to take immediate action to reverse this  
22 decision and prioritize energy production in areas such as Cook Inlet and restore balance to  
23 the nation's energy policies; and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
25 Congress and federal policymakers to recognize the importance of the state's energy resources  
26 in ensuring affordable energy, creating jobs, and supporting national security while balancing  
27 environmental considerations.

28 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to: The Honorable Donald J. Trump,  
29 President of the United States; The Honorable J. D. Vance, Vice President of the United  
30 States and President of the U.S. Senate; The Honorable John Thune, Majority Leader of the  
31 U.S. Senate; The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the

- 1 Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the
- 2 Honorable Nick Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.