

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 18

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

4

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

5

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; CONGRESS OF THE UNITED

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STATES; THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR; THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU

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OF LAND MANAGEMENT; AND THE DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA,

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Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska

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in Twenty-third Regular Session assembled, respectfully submits:

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WHEREAS, the development of the oil and gas resources of

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the Territory of Alaska is of vital importance to the development

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and economy of the Territory and to the national defense of the

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United States and its Territories and possessions; and

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WHEREAS, most of the known geologic areas favorable to the

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development of oil and gas reserves in Alaska lie beneath or

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are bordered by coastal, tide and submerged lands and inland

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waters; and

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WHEREAS, such Alaska lands are now "held in trust for the

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future State of Alaska" and under present law and the territorial

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status of the Territory of Alaska there is no means by which

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such coastal, tidal and submerged lands may be leased for oil

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and gas drilling and development; and

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WHEREAS, representatives of the oil industry have urged

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that these underwater lands be made available for leasing so

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that the further search for oil and gas deposits, and their de-

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velopment, if found, can freely follow the indicated and demon-

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strated geology and will not be impeded by the arbitrary bound-

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aries between dry land and underwater lands; and

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WHEREAS, it is common knowledge that the existence and,

1 extent of oil and gas deposits cannot be positively determined
2 except by the actual drilling of wells; and

3 WHEREAS, it is the sense of your Memorialist that every-
4 thing possible should be done to encourage and extend to further
5 areas the search for and development of oil and gas deposits
6 within the Territory and in its tidal and coastal waters; and

7 WHEREAS, the Twenty-third Session of the Alaska Legislature
8 has passed enabling legislation establishing policies for the
9 administration of any lands acquired by Alaska and has created
10 a Department of Lands capable of such administration,

11 NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the
12 Territory of Alaska, respectfully requests and petitions Congress
13 that Alaska be granted title to its coastal, tide and submerged
14 lands and its inland waters, for administration thereunder; or
15 in lieu thereof said lands be removed for their present status
16 and be made available to the Department of the Interior for
17 administration in behalf of the Territory of Alaska.

18 AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVERY PRAY.
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