

Introduced: 3/27/70  
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 114

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Requesting the Secretary of the Interior  
6 to invalidate all Offers to Lease  
7 federal lands in Alaska which were filed  
8 after the land freeze of 1966.

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 WHEREAS subsequent to the 1966 land freeze on federal lands in Alaska,  
11 the Bureau of Land Management was ordered to cease issuing oil and gas  
12 leases in the state; and

13 WHEREAS, although this order was in effect, the Bureau of Land Manage-  
14 ment accepted Offers to Lease on those same lands; and

15 WHEREAS on an Offer to Lease no rent is charged until the lease is  
16 actually issued, but the person filing for the offer is normally given  
17 priority over offers that might be filed later; and

18 WHEREAS as a result of this Bureau of Land Management policy, oil lease  
19 brokers and speculators now have an effective hold on federal leases covering  
20 over 20 million acres of land without the payment of any consideration to  
21 the government; and

22 WHEREAS some of these brokers and speculators have already sold many of  
23 their Offer to Lease priorities, and speculation in them continues; and

24 WHEREAS the undesirable effect that the acceptance of these Offers to  
25 Lease will have is that when the land freeze is lifted, 20 million acres of  
26 potential oil lands in Alaska will be leased to brokers and speculators at  
27 only 50 cents an acre, the normal rent charged on most federal land in the  
28 state; and

29 WHEREAS, unless these Offers to Lease are rejected by the Department of

1 the Interior's Bureau of Land Management, the taxpayers of the United States  
2 stand to bear the eventual tax burden resulting from this misappropriation of  
3 America's last and possibly richest oil provinces;

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Sixth Alaska Legislature that the Secretary of  
5 the Interior is requested to invalidate all Offers to Lease federal lands in  
6 Alaska which were filed after the land freeze of 1966 and that the Bureau of  
7 Land Management review and limit procedures under the noncompetitive leasing  
8 system that may cause undue speculation following the lifting of the land  
9 freeze, in the interest of maximizing the nationwide benefits from Alaska's  
10 oil and gas resources.

11 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.  
12 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Walter J. Hickel,  
13 Secretary, Department of the Interior; the Honorable Boyd L. Rasmussen,  
14 Director, Bureau of Land Management; the Honorable Henry M. Mackson, Chairman  
15 Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; the Honorable Wayne N.  
16 Aspinall, Chairman, House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; and to the  
17 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and  
18 the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska  
19 delegation in Congress.

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