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1 IN THE HOUSE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to oil and gas exploration,

6

development, and production within the

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Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska.

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

9 WHEREAS the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, includes more  
 10 than 19,000,000 acres of land, which amounts to approximately five percent  
 11 of the size of the entire state; and

12 WHEREAS the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,  
 13 Alaska, covers approximately eight percent of the refuge and is considered  
 14 to have high potential for the discovery of large quantities of oil and  
 15 gas; and

16 WHEREAS the U.S. Congress has reserved the right to decide if the  
 17 coastal plain will be opened to further oil and gas exploration, develop-  
 18 ment, and production; and

19 WHEREAS the petroleum industry has consistently demonstrated its  
 20 ability to operate under conditions similar to those found on the coastal  
 21 plain in a safe and responsible manner without significant adverse environ-  
 22 mental effects; and

23 WHEREAS the United States must develop domestic petroleum resources if  
 24 the United States is to prevent itself from becoming overwhelmingly depen-  
 25 dent on foreign petroleum sources in the 21st century; and

26 WHEREAS the value and development potential of state-owned tideland  
 27 and federally-owned outer continental shelf land offshore of the coastal  
 28 plain would be enhanced by a decision by the U.S. Congress to open the  
 29 coastal plain to further oil and gas exploration, development, and

1 production; and

2 WHEREAS the facilities that would be developed to transport petroleum  
3 resources discovered on the coastal plain to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline  
4 System might allow marginal discoveries located between the refuge and  
5 Prudhoe Bay to be developed; and

6 WHEREAS the energy security of the nation depends on the development  
7 of domestic oil and gas resources to replace depleted United States re-  
8 serves; and

9 WHEREAS the nation will derive revenue, including portions of bonuses,  
10 royalties, and rents, from oil and gas development of the coastal plain;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS opening the coastal plain to further oil and gas exploration,  
13 development, and production will generate increased employment and business  
14 opportunities for all citizens of the state and the nation;

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of  
16 the United States is urged to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National  
17 Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, to environmentally responsible oil and gas explo-  
18 ration, development, and production.

19 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,  
20 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the  
21 Honorable Donald P. Hodel, Secretary of the Department of the Interior; the  
22 Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the  
23 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and  
24 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-  
25 tion in Congress; and to the presiding officer of each legislative house of  
26 the other states in the United States.