

Introduced: 1/28/87
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 Relating to the Arctic National Wildlife
6 Refuge, Alaska.
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
8 WHEREAS the United States Congress has reserved the right to permit
9 further exploration for, and development of, oil and gas within the coastal
10 plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska; and
11 WHEREAS the U.S. Department of the Interior, the state, and the oil
12 industry consider the coastal plain to have the highest potential for
13 discovery of very large oil and gas accumulations on the continent of North
14 America; and
15 WHEREAS a decision to permit oil and gas exploration, development, and
16 production on the coastal plain would facilitate the development of highly
17 promising state and federal tideland and submerged land; and
18 WHEREAS the facilities that are developed to transport oil and gas
19 from the coastal plain to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) may allow
20 the development of marginal fields between the refuge and TAPS, extending
21 the economic life of the pipeline and reducing tariffs that are expected to
22 balloon in approximately 20 years; and
23 WHEREAS development of oil and gas in the refuge should and will be
24 subject to strict environmental safeguards, including those protecting
25 water, land, air, and important wildlife habitat that supports the subsis-
26 tence resources used by Natives of the state and of the Yukon Territory in
27 Canada; and
28 WHEREAS the permanent protection of large areas in the state's arctic
29 region is assured by park, reserve, and refuge designations encompassing

1 over 35,000,000 acres of federal land in the region; and

2 WHEREAS the biological and recreational resources of the refuge are
3 very valuable, and the protection of these resources with adequate develop-
4 ment safeguards is in the interest of the nation and the state; and

5 WHEREAS the land trades proposed by the U.S. Department of the
6 Interior with private corporations would reduce or eliminate the state's
7 existing entitlement to oil and gas revenue from the refuge; and

8 WHEREAS the state is a vast and under-served state with basic educa-
9 tion, capital improvement, and public service needs, and a reduction in
10 state revenue is a serious matter for the state's residents; and

11 WHEREAS the U.S. Congress could consider reducing the state's existing
12 entitlement to oil and gas revenue within the refuge, even though the
13 reduction might violate solemn agreements between the federal government
14 and the state, discriminate against the state as compared to other states,
15 and reverse decades-long policies of the federal government regarding the
16 management of public domain lands within the states; and

17 WHEREAS development of coastal plain oil and gas resources can and
18 should be conducted by the corporations and workers of the state, who have
19 the expertise to bring the resources to market; and

20 WHEREAS the oil and gas industry and employment of the state have been
21 severely affected by reduced oil and gas activity in recent years, and the
22 reduction has broad implications for the entire state economy;

23 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature adopts the following
24 consensus points regarding management of the coastal plain of the Arctic
25 National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska:

26 (1) the U.S. Congress should promptly open the coastal plain of
27 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, to oil and gas exploration,
28 production, and transportation under conditions that are in the interest of
29 the nation and the state, reserving the leasing of land in the core caribou

1 calving grounds until a later time;

2 (2) the U.S. Department of the Interior should desist from
3 discussing land trades that would eliminate the state's revenue share from
4 oil and gas activity in the refuge and that could reduce the ownership
5 influence of the state and federal governments on oil and gas leasing in
6 the refuge;

7 (3) unless the state concurs, the U.S. Congress should not allow
8 measures or actions that reduce the state's entitlement to oil and gas
9 revenue from the refuge;

10 (4) the U.S. Congress should require the protection of the
11 environmental and subsistence resources of the refuge, including wildlife
12 habitat, air, and water, in the event of oil and gas development on the
13 coastal plain of the refuge; and

14 (5) the U.S. Congress, in recognition of the state's economic
15 situation and the need for long-term economic development in the state,
16 should require that the exploration and development activity in the refuge
17 be conducted by the work forces of the state; and be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED that the state's delegation in Congress and the
19 Governor of the state should support opening the coastal plain of the
20 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, to oil and gas exploration, pro-
21 duction, and transportation under conditions that would advance the inter-
22 ests of the people of the state, and work with the U.S. Department of the
23 Interior to forestall proposed refuge land trades that would be inimical to
24 the interests of the state.

25 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
26 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable Donald Hodel,
27 Secretary of the Department of the Interior; to the Honorable Steve Cowper,
28 Governor of Alaska; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
29 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,

1 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to each of the other
2 members of the U.S. Congress.