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Referred: Oil & Gas and Resources

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1 IN THE SENATE

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2

SENATE 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,

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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:

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WHEREAS the United States Congress has reserved the right to permit
10 further oil and gas exploration, development, and production within the
11 coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska; and

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WHEREAS the oil industry, the state, and the U.S. Department of the
13 Interior consider the coastal plain to have the highest potential for
14 discovery of very large oil and gas accumulations on the continent of North
15 America; and

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WHEREAS a decision to permit oil and gas exploration, development, and
17 production on the coastal plain of the refuge would increase the value and
18 facilitate the development of highly promising state-owned tideland and
19 federally-owned outer-continental-shelf land offshore of the refuge; and

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WHEREAS the facilities that are developed to transport petroleum
21 resources discovered on the coastal plain of the refuge to the Trans-Alaska
22 Pipeline System may allow marginal discoveries located between the refuge
23 and the pipeline to be developed and produced, and may prolong the economic
24 life of the pipeline; and

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WHEREAS oil and gas exploration and development of the coastal plain
26 of the refuge and adjacent land could result in major discoveries that
27 would reduce our nation's future needs for imported oil, help balance the
28 nation's trade deficit, and significantly increase the nation's security;
29 and

1 WHEREAS 8,000,000 of the 19,000,000 acres of the refuge have already
2 been set aside as wilderness; and

3 WHEREAS the 1,500,000-acre coastal plain of the refuge comprises only
4 eight percent of the refuge, and the development of the oil and gas
5 reserves in the refuge's coastal plain would affect an even smaller
6 percentage of the refuge; and

7 WHEREAS the oil industry has shown at Prudhoe Bay, as well as at other
8 locations along the Arctic coastal plain, that it can safely conduct oil
9 and gas activity without adversely affecting the environment or wildlife
10 populations;

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

15 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald Hodel,
16 Secretary of the Department of the Interior; to the Honorable J. Bennett
17 Johnston, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources;
18 to the Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman of the House Committee on
19 Interior and Insular Affairs; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
20 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
21 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.