

Offered: 2/13/87
Referred: Resources

5-0180B

Original sponsors: Sturgulewski, Fischer,
Abood, et al.

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON OIL AND GAS
2 CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7 (Oil & Gas)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 Relating to oil and gas exploration,
6 development, and production within the
7 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska.
8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
9 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
12 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
16 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
20 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
25 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 the oil and gas industry and related Alaska employment have
2 been severely affected by reduced oil and gas activity, and the reduction
3 in industry investment and employment has broad implications for the Alaska
4 work force and the entire state economy; and

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

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

10 WHEREAS the 1,500,000-acre coastal plain of the refuge comprises only
11 eight percent of the refuge, and the development of the oil and gas re-
12 serves in the refuge's coastal plain would affect an even smaller percent-
13 age of the refuge; and

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

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of
19 the United States is urged to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National
20 Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, to oil and gas exploration, development, and
21 production; and be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED that that activity be conducted in a manner that
23 protects the environment and utilizes the state's work force to the maximum
24 extent possible.

25 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald Hodel,
26 Secretary of the Department of the Interior; to the Honorable J. Bennett
27 Johnston, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources;
28 to the Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman of the House Committee on
29 Interior and Insular Affairs; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the

- 1 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
- 2 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.