

Offered: 2/1/88
Referred: Finance

5-0180P

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

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7 (Resources)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 Relating to oil and gas exploration,
6 development, and production within the
7 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska,
8 and declaring state policy.
9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
10 WHEREAS in 1980 the United States Congress suspended the operation of
11 the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 191) on the coastal plain of the
12 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to allow for the study of management alter-
13 natives for the coastal plain; and
14 WHEREAS the coastal plain has been found to have the best potential
15 for onshore oil and gas discoveries in the United States; and
16 WHEREAS Congress recognized the environmental importance of the
17 coastal plain by placing it in the national wildlife refuge system in 1980,
18 and the wildlife and habitat deserve a high standard of protection if oil
19 exploration and development proceed; and
20 WHEREAS exploration and development of oil and gas on the coastal
21 plain could reduce the nation's trade deficit, increase energy security,
22 prevent erosion of the oil and gas industry, improve the national and state
23 economies, and occur with full environmental protection and safeguards; and
24 WHEREAS even when the strictest standards of environmental protection
25 are applied there still can be some risk to land, water, and wildlife from
26 development activity, and Alaskans dependent on subsistence resources of
27 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should be protected in the event that
28 there is any damage to subsistence resources; and
29 WHEREAS the people of Alaska, based on the provisions of the statehood

1 compact, are to be treated equally and fairly in the decisions of the
2 United States government regarding revenue sharing, leasing, and develop-
3 ment of public lands, including the coastal plain; and

4 WHEREAS the state's economy is in bad condition, with high unemploy-
5 ment, property foreclosures, and shrinking investment;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature adopts the following
7 consensus points on management of the coastal plain, and strongly urges
8 Congress to act on them:

9 (1) the United States Congress should open the coastal plain to
10 environmentally responsible oil and gas exploration, development, and
11 production under the authority of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30
12 U.S.C. 191);

13 (2) the United States Congress should provide for maximum par-
14 ticipation and job opportunity for Alaska residents in coastal plain explo-
15 ration and development;

16 (3) the United States Congress should treat Alaska equally and
17 fairly on revenue issues and not depart from the spirit of the statehood
18 compact; and

19 (4) the United States Congress should include language in any
20 coastal plain legislation that addresses indemnification for subsistence
21 users in Alaska, as it did in the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act
22 (43 U.S.C. 1653).

23 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
24 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George Bush, Vice-
25 President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honor-
26 able Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honor-
27 able George P. Shultz, Secretary of State; the Honorable Donald P. Hodel,
28 Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chairman, and
29 the Honorable James A. McClure, Ranking Minority Member, of the Senate

1 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Quentin N.
2 Burdick, Chairman, and the Honorable Robert T. Stafford, Ranking Minority
3 Member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; the Honor-
4 able George J. Mitchell, Chairman, and the Honorable John H. Chafee, Rank-
5 ing Minority Member of the Subcommittee on Environmental Protection of the
6 Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; the Honorable Morris K.
7 Udall, Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; the
8 Honorable George Miller, Chairman, and the Honorable Charles Pashayan, Jr.,
9 Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources of
10 the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; the Honorable Walter
11 B. Jones, Chairman, and the Honorable Robert W. Davis, Ranking Minority
12 Member of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; the Honor-
13 able Gerry E. Studds, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wild-
14 life Conservation and the Environment of the House Committee on Merchant
15 Marine and Fisheries; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
16 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Repre-
17 sentative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.