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6-1045A

BY GRUENBERG, COTTEN, NAVARRE, GRUSSENDORF, BARNES, BOUCHER, BOYER, BROWN, CATO, COLLINS, DAVIDSON, C.DAVIS, DONLEY, ELLIS, FOSTER, HANLEY, HOFFMAN, HUDSON, JACKO, KOPONEN, LARSON, LEMAN, MACLEAN, MARTIN, MENARD, MILLER, PETTYJOHN, PHILLIPS, RIEGER, SHARP, SPOHNHOLZ, SWACKHAMMER, TAYLOR, ULMER, ZAWACKI AND SHULTZ

IN THE HOUSE

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 39

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

Endorsing in principle S. 406, legislation to authorize oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but opposing provisions of that legislation that would amend current provisions relating to sharing of royalties from the development of that land with the State of Alaska.

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

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature has previously recognized the importance of reasonable exploration and development of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and has adopted resolutions supporting federal legislation to authorize oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Statehood Act, a covenant between the federal government and the people of Alaska, provides that the state will receive 90 percent of all oil, gas, and mineral royalties from federal land in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the people of the State of Alaska relied on that royalty sharing provision in ratifying the Alaska Statehood Act; and

WHEREAS this Legislature has relied on that royalty sharing provision in the years since statehood in the implementation of long-range planning and in its support of federal legislation to authorize oil and gas development; and

1 WHEREAS the federal government has both a moral and a legal obligation
2 to honor this provision in the Alaska Statehood Act, not only as part of
3 its duty to Alaska, but because of the precedent on other statehood acts
4 and treaties; and
5 WHEREAS section 501(a) of S. 406, pending legislation in the 101st
6 Congress to authorize oil and gas leasing in the coastal plain of the
7 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, provides that only 50 percent of royalty
8 revenues from the Wildlife Refuge would be shared with Alaska;
9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Legislature
10 endorses and supports in principle S. 406, but opposes the proposed reduc-
11 tion in royalty revenue sharing set out in section 501(a); and be it
12 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully
13 requests the Congress of the U.S. to amend the section to increase the
14 royalty revenue sharing provision to 90 percent, in accord with the Alaska
15 Statehood Act.
16 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
17 President of the United States; the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the
18 U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President pro
19 tem of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chairman of the
20 Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Morris K.
21 Udall, Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; the
22 Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr., Secretary of the Interior; and to the Honor-
23 able Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
24 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
25 in Congress.