

1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to oil and gas exploration,

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development, and production within the

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Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

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 United States Department
13 of the Interior consider the coastal plain of the refuge to have the
14 highest potential for discovery of very large oil and gas accumulations on
15 the continent of North 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 the 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 re-
5 serves in the refuge's coastal plain would affect an even smaller per-
6 centage of the refuge;

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

11 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Manuel Lujan,
12 Jr., Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chairman
13 of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; Morris K. Udall,
14 Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; and to the
15 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and
16 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-
17 tion in Congress.