

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GRUENBERG, Grussendorf, Donley, Baker, Barnes, Boyer, Brown, Bruckman, Carney, Choquette, Davidson, B.Davis, C.Davis, Foster, Gonzales, Hudson, Jacko, Koponen, Kubina, Larson, Leman, Mackie, M.A.Miller, Navarre, Parnell, G.Phillips, R.Phillips, Sharp, Taylor, Moyer, Ulmer

Introduced: 2/8/91

Referred: House Special Committee on Oil and Gas, Resources, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 Endorsing in principle legislation authorizing oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain within
2 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but opposing provisions of any legislation that would
3 decrease this state's royalty share from that exploration and development.

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

5 WHEREAS recent developments in the Persian Gulf have increased the determination of all
6 Alaskans to do our part in reducing our country's dependence on foreign oil; and

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS this Legislature has relied on that royalty sharing provision in the years since

1 statehood in implementing long-range planning and in supporting federal legislation authorizing oil and
2 gas exploration and development; and

3 **WHEREAS** the federal government has both a moral and a legal obligation to honor this
4 provision in the Alaska Statehood Act, not only as part of its duty to Alaska, but because of the
5 precedent on other statehood acts and treaties; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Congress has considered legislation authorizing oil and gas leasing in the coastal
7 plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that provides that only 50 percent of royalty revenues from
8 the Wildlife Refuge would be shared with Alaska;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Legislature supports in principle
10 federal legislation authorizing oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife
11 Refuge, but opposes any reduction in royalty revenue from that exploration and development.

12 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
13 States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and president of the U.S. Senate;
14 the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable George
15 Mitchell, U.S. Senate Majority Leader; the Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chair of the Senate
16 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman of the House
17 Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr., Secretary of the Interior;
18 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
19 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.