

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21 (OIL AND GAS)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON OIL AND GAS

Offered: 3/6/91

Referred: Resources, Finance

Sponsor(s): 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, Ivan

A RESOLUTION

**1 Endorsing, in principle, legislation authorizing oil and gas leasing, exploration, and
2 development on the coastal plain within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, provided the
3 legislation does not contain a provision decreasing this state's royalty.**

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

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

**9 WHEREAS the Alaska Statehood Act contains a binding contract with Alaska that the state will
10 receive 90 percent of all oil, gas, and mineral royalties from federal land in Alaska; and**

**11 WHEREAS the federal government has both a moral and a legal obligation to honor all
12 statehood acts; and**

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

**15 WHEREAS the United States Congress included that royalty sharing provision in the compact
16 because Alaska, unlike all other public land states, was not covered by the federal Reclamation Act and**

1 derived no benefits from that Act; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Congress also intended in the Alaska Statehood Act to compensate Alaska for
3 the large federal land reservations that had the effect of stifling beneficial economic development; and

4 **WHEREAS** 65 percent of the remote communities in Alaska still lack piped water and other
5 essential services and the people of Alaska rely on that royalty sharing provision to address this and
6 other grave health, social, and economic problems; and

7 **WHEREAS** the President of the United States has announced a National Energy Plan that
8 includes provisions allocating 100 percent of any revenue derived from leasing, exploration, and
9 development of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to the federal government, in
10 violation of the Alaska Statehood Act; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Congress is considering other legislation that authorizes oil and gas leasing in
12 the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that

13 (1) provides that only 50 percent of royalty revenue from the wildlife refuge would be
14 shared with Alaska, and

15 (2) contains so called "blackmail clauses" that would void any lease sale should the
16 revenue division and sharing provisions be successfully challenged in court; and

17 **WHEREAS** the "blackmail clauses" infringe on our state's constitutional rights because they
18 penalize Alaska if it tries to protect its rights under the Statehood Act;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Legislature supports in principle
20 federal legislation authorizing oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife
21 Refuge, but opposes any unilateral reductions in royalty revenue from that exploration and development
22 and any attempts by the Congress or the President to coerce the State of Alaska into accepting less than
23 was promised at statehood.

24 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
25 States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and president of the U.S. Senate;
26 the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable George
27 Mitchell, U.S. Senate Majority Leader; the Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chair of the Senate
28 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable George Miller, Vice-Chair and Acting Chair
29 of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr., Secretary of
30 the Interior; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
31 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the
32 presiding officers of the houses of the legislatures of each of our sister states.