

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21 (RESOURCES)**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA****SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION****BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE****Offered: 3/20/91****Referred: 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, M.W.Miller

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** the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge comprises a core calving
5 ground of the Porcupine Caribou herd; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Gwich'in Athabascan Indians of northeastern Alaska and northwestern Canada
7 have relied on caribou for subsistence for thousands of years, and continue to subsist on the Porcupine
8 Caribou herd, a herd that is essential to meet the nutritional, cultural, and spiritual needs of the Gwich'in
9 people; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Legislature supports in principle
26 federal legislation authorizing oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development on the coastal plain of
27 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but opposes any unilateral reductions in royalty revenue from that
28 exploration and development and any attempts by the Congress or the President to coerce the State of
29 Alaska into accepting less than was promised at statehood; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Congress join with the state in providing strict standards for
31 the protection of land, water, and wildlife resources, including the habitat of the Porcupine Caribou herd,
32 during the exploration and development of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

1 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
2 States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and president of the U.S. Senate;
3 the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable George
4 Mitchell, U.S. Senate Majority Leader; the Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chair of the Senate
5 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable George Miller, Vice-Chair and Acting Chair
6 of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr., Secretary of
7 the Interior; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
8 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the
9 governors and the presiding officers of the houses of the legislatures of each of our sister states.