

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

BY SENATORS UEHLING, Jones, Halford, Sturgulewski, Frank, Eliason, Collins, Pearce, Shultz, Adams, Fischer, Rodey, Menard

Introduced: 3/4/91

Referred: Senate Special Committee on Oil and Gas and Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to oil and gas exploration and production within, and the state's royalty shares
2 in the development of, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

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

4 WHEREAS the United States Congress has reserved the right to permit further oil and gas
5 exploration, development, and production within the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,
6 Alaska; and

7 WHEREAS the oil industry, the state, and the United States Department of the Interior consider
8 the coastal plain of the refuge to have the highest potential for discovery of very large oil and gas
9 accumulations on the continent of North America; and

10 WHEREAS oil and gas exploration and development of the coastal plain of the refuge and
11 adjacent land could result in major discoveries that would reduce the nation's future needs for imported
12 oil, help balance the nation's trade deficit, and significantly increase the nation's security; and

13 WHEREAS 8,000,000 of the 19,000,000 acres of the refuge have already been set aside as
14 wilderness; and

15 WHEREAS the 1,500,000-acre coastal plain of the refuge comprises only eight percent of the
16 refuge, and the development of the oil and gas reserves in the refuge's coastal plain would affect an even

1 smaller percentage of the refuge; and

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

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

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

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the President of the United States and
11 the Congress of the United States are urged to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife
12 Refuge, Alaska, to environmentally responsible oil and gas exploration, development, and production;
13 and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislature opposes any reduction in Alaska's royalty revenue
15 share from the development of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

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