

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

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON OIL AND GAS**

**Offered: 3/27/91**  
**Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): SENATORS UEHLING, Jones, Halford, Sturgulewski, Frank, Eliason, Collins, Pearce, Shultz, Adams, Fischer, Rodey, Menard, Zharoff**

**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 the Congress recognized the environmental importance of the coastal plain by**  
**14 placing it in the national wildlife refuge system in 1980, and the wildlife and habitat deserve a high**  
**15 standard of protection if oil exploration and development proceed; and**

**16 WHEREAS experience in oil and gas development in Arctic regions, together with technological**

1 advances, provide assurances that development can proceed in an environmentally responsible manner;  
2 and

3       **WHEREAS** the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge contains an area important  
4 to the calving of the Porcupine Caribou herd; and

5       **WHEREAS** Native Alaskans of northeastern Alaska and northwestern Canada have relied on  
6 caribou for subsistence for thousands of years and continue to harvest caribou from the Porcupine  
7 Caribou herd, a herd that is essential to meet the nutritional, cultural, and spiritual needs of those Native  
8 Alaskan people; and

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

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

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

17       **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the legislature supports federal  
18 legislation authorizing oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development on the coastal plain of the  
19 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge provided that

20               (1) oil and gas exploration, development, and production take place in an environmentally  
21 responsible manner;

22               (2) federal legislation and leasing practices will ensure maximum participation and job  
23 opportunity for Alaska residents in coastal plain exploration and development;

24               (3) the United States Congress treats Alaska equally and fairly on revenue issues and does  
25 not depart from the statehood compact by unilaterally reducing Alaska's royalty revenue share from the  
26 coastal plain development; and

27               (4) exploration and development are done in a manner that does not harm the Porcupine  
28 Caribou herd.

29       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United  
30 States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and president of the U.S. Senate;  
31 the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable George  
32 Mitchell, U.S. Senate Majority Leader; the Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chair of the Senate

1 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable George Miller, Vice-chair and Acting chair  
2 of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr., Secretary of  
3 the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and  
4 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.