

HJR

7

Committees:

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Resources
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Economic Development,
Trade & Tourism

Alaska State Legislature



Representative Beverly Masek

During Interim: (June-Dec.)
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Sponsor Statement for HJR 7

Resolution Supporting Oil Exploration and Development in ANWR

The need for expanding Alaska's resource based industries remains imperative if we want to maintain or increase the State's economic base. Although other sectors of the economy may provide jobs, they more than likely would not be able to support the financial infrastructure of state government to the extent that natural resource development does, especially the oil and gas sectors.

Most reliable indicators show Alaska's North Slope oil production is in decline. Geologists have indicated that one of the best prospects for new discoveries lies within the 1002 section of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge which has been left open by Congress for potential exploration and development. It seems that a prudent course of action would be to open this area of the Arctic Coastal Plain so that Alaskans can derive the economic benefits therein.

HJR 7 is not a new piece of legislation. It has been introduced on numerous occasions in the past and has always enjoyed overwhelming support from the Governor and the Legislature, as well as the general public. Alaska's chances of moving ahead on this project have been greatly increased now that George W. Bush is President. We need to take advantage of this opportunity and once again send our message to the Nation's Capitol.

LEGAL SERVICES

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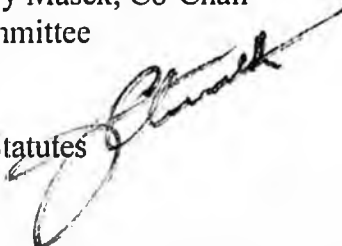
MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2001

SUBJECT: Two comments regarding the insertion of the committee-adopted amendment into draft CSHJR 7 (Resources)
(Work Order No. 22-LS0341\F)

TO: Representative Beverly Masek, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee

FROM: Jack Chenoweth
Assistant Revisor of Statutes



The amendment adopted by the House Resources Committee explicitly called for insertion of the additional paragraph at page 3, line 11, following a reference to "and be it".

Instead, I added the material at page 3, following line 13. I made the change because, in the February 1 draft CS that the committee had under consideration, the second "Resolved" clause of that draft so closely relates to the first--reference in the second clause to "that activity" refers back to "exploration, development, and production" mentioned in the first--that I did not want to insert new material expressing opposition to a royalty reduction between the two clauses. I treated the language of the amendment adopted by the committee as a third, concluding "Resolved" clause.

*

Members seeking to add their names as co-sponsors on legislation that has been introduced must do so during the daily floor session. Those who do have their names shown in the Journal and as an entry in BASIS. The BASIS entry guides our preparation of draft and final bills. If Representative Green expressed a willingness to co-sponsor in committee, I am not authorized to add his name; he would need to make the same request during a floor session.

cc: Representative Beth Kerttula
Representative Joe Green

JBC:lmb
01-039.lmb
Enclosure

*Move to Dept
McBain*

22-LS0341\c
Chenoweth
2/1/01

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7(RES)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**Offered:
~~Referred:~~**

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES MASEK, Ogan, James, Wilson

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to pass legislation to open the coastal plain of the**
2 **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, to oil and gas exploration, development, and**
3 **production.**

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

5 **WHEREAS**, in sec. 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
6 (ANILCA), the United States Congress reserved the right to permit further oil and gas
7 exploration, development, and production within the coastal plain of the Arctic National
8 Wildlife Refuge, Alaska; and

9 **WHEREAS** the oil industry, the state, and the United States Department of the
10 Interior consider the coastal plain to have the highest potential for discovery of very large oil
11 and gas accumulations on the continent of North America. estimated to be as much as
12 10,000,000 000 barrels of recoverable oil; and

13 **WHEREAS** the "1002 study area" is part of the coastal plain located within the North
14 Slope Borough, and residents of the North Slope Borough, who are predominantly Inupiat
15 Eskimo, are supportive of development in the "1002 study area"; and

1 **WHEREAS** oil and gas exploration and development of the coastal plain of the refuge
2 and adjacent land could result in major discoveries that would reduce our nation's future need
3 for imported oil, help balance the nation's trade deficit, and significantly increase the nation's
4 security; and

5 **WHEREAS** domestic demand for oil continues to rise while domestic crude
6 production continues to fall with the result that the United States imports additional oil from
7 foreign sources; and

8 **WHEREAS** development of oil at Prudhoe Bay, Kuparuk, Endicott, Lisburne, and
9 Milne Point has resulted in thousands of jobs throughout the United States, and projected job
10 creation as a result of coastal plain oil development will have a positive effect in all 50 states;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS** Prudhoe Bay production is declining by approximately 10 percent a year;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, while new oil field developments on the North Slope of Alaska, such as
15 Alpine, Badami, and West Sak, may slow or temporarily stop the decline in production, only
16 giant coastal plain fields have the theoretical capability of increasing the production volume
17 of Alaska oil to a significant degree; and

18 **WHEREAS** opening the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge now
19 allows sufficient time for planning environmental safeguards, development, and national
20 security review; and

21 **WHEREAS** the 1,500,000-acre coastal plain of the refuge makes up only eight
22 percent of the 19,000,000-acre refuge, and the development of the oil and gas reserves in the
23 refuge's coastal plain would affect an area of only 2,000 to 7,000 acres, which is less than
24 one-half of one percent of the area of the coastal plain; and

25 **WHEREAS** 8,000,000 of the 19,000,000 acres of the refuge have already been set
26 aside as wilderness; and

27 **WHEREAS** the oil industry has shown at Prudhoe Bay, as well as at other locations
28 along the Arctic coastal plain, that it can safely conduct oil and gas activity without adversely
29 affecting the environment or wildlife populations; and

30 **WHEREAS** the state will ensure the continued health and productivity of the
31 Porcupine Caribou herd and the protection of land, water, and wildlife resources during the

1 exploration and development of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,
2 Alaska; and

3 **WHEREAS** the oil industry is using innovative technology and environmental
4 practices in the new field developments at Alpine and Northstar, and those techniques are
5 directly applicable to operating on the coastal plain and would enhance environmental
6 protection beyond traditionally high standards;

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of the United
8 States is urged to pass legislation to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife
9 Refuge, Alaska, to oil and gas exploration, development, and production, and that the Alaska
10 State Legislature is adamantly opposed to further wilderness or other restrictive designation in
11 the area of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that that activity be conducted in a manner that protects the
13 environment and uses the state's work force to the maximum extent possible.

14 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
15 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States
16 and president of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior; the
17 Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable
18 Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
19 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
20 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to all other members of
21 the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives serving in the 107th United States
22 Congress.

- Testimony Evidence

(McQuinn) kept for work paper
Kittling. Amendment

Q. (Lew) - How would Amendment affect?

A. (Edwards) - it just states we want over 90/10 split
we were provided -
doesn't see any reason why to not include

(B.K.) - thanks

(Green) ~~but~~ makes tests hold to a agent

(Green) - Agent amendment 1

(B.K.) - objections?

- none -

And 1 included in Res.

Sue Schroeder - All construction votes
helding.

- passed out packet separately

- made recommendations for further reading

(Green) Sue Schroeder has not personally been to the N. Slope
courthouse. Has a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine

Good grilling by Green - Good stuff
Should be in minutes!

AMENDMENT No. #1

OFFERED IN HOUSE RESOURCES

BY REPRESENTATIVE KERTTULA

TO: HJR 7

1 Page 3, line 14, following "and be it":

2

3 Insert a new paragraph to read:

4

5 **"FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes any
6 unilateral reduction in royalty revenue from exploration and development of the coastal
7 plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and any attempt to coerce that State of
8 Alaska into accepting less than the 90 percent of the oil, gas, and mineral royalties from
9 the federal land in Alaska that was promised to the state at statehood; and be it"

THE
FOLLOWING
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Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.

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February 5, 2001

Representative Beverly Masek
State Capitol, Room 128
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HJR 7, Endorsing ANWR leasing

Dear Representative Masek:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc., (RDC) is writing to express its strong support for HJR 7.

RDC is a statewide organization made up of all resource sectors, business associations, labor unions, Native corporations, tourism providers, local governments and thousands of individuals. RDC's purpose is to expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

With a new President in Washington, the time is now to press for legislation in Congress to open the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas exploration, development and production. As President George W. Bush has stated, industry has the capability to develop potentially enormous oil prospects in ANWR while protecting the environment and wildlife. With innovative technology and advanced environmental practices, development can coexist with arctic wildlife and the subsistence lifestyles of local residents.

Only a small portion of the Coastal Plain would be directly impacted by oil and gas exploration, development and production, yet the economic benefits to Alaska and its Lower 48 neighbors would be staggering. ANWR oil production would create tens of thousands of jobs, lower the nation's reliance on foreign oil and generate revenues to the state and federal treasury.

Thank you for introducing HJR 7. You have RDC's full support.

Sincerely,

Tadd Owens
Executive Director

ANWR

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FEATURES

North Slope Borough Mayor George N. Ahmaogak

(Editor's Note: Below are remarks given before the Arctic Power Annual Meeting. Arctic Power is the sponsor of anwr.org.)

November 15, 2000



Good evening. I am George Nasuayaaq Ahmaogak, Mayor of the North Slope Borough, and I'm honored to be here with you today. I'm also happy to see that Arctic Power continues to perform a valuable public service for the people of this state by educating the policy-makers and opinion-makers about the real issues surrounding the development of ANWR, the Arctic

National Wildlife Refuge.

Down the street from here at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art, they're putting on a show this evening entitled *Caribou Commons: Images and Sounds from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*. Word has it that some of the sounds they're using are the sounds of Native people. Something tells me this speech won't be among those sounds.

I want to speak this evening about our situation as Native people in the new millennium, and I can assure you that my words don't belong in a museum. I have to wonder why they are always trying to put us in museums. Why is it assumed that Native people cannot benefit from the development of their homeland and still remain Native?

This reminds me of a documentary about Inupiat whaling that was done many years ago. The film gave a pretty fair picture of the spiritual, cultural and nutritional importance of whaling to the Eskimo people of northern Alaska. But

Mayors

when the antiwhaling interests saw it, they criticized it because it showed whalers in their camps on the ice, eating subsistence foods from paper plates

I guess they figured that real Eskimos don't use paper plates. That was news to us!

There are people who see ANWR as a pristine wilderness, unmarked by human influence. They call its landscape vast and empty. They make brief visits along the coastal plain, and they go home in awe of its raw beauty and power. They make museum shows about it, and they label it untouchable. That is their vision of our homeland.

I have a different vision of ANWR. It is a vision of a land that is neither untouched nor untouchable. The ANWR I want you to see is not a vast frozen wilderness to be either conquered or abandoned. It is our home, and we are part of it. We belong there just as much as the caribou and the fish and the birds. We are the Inupiat, and ANWR lies entirely within our domain, entirely under the jurisdiction of the North Slope Borough, the home rule government which we created. As Mayor of the North Slope Borough, I am here to tell you that whatever happens within ANWR affects us first. We are the stewards of that land, and if we support a development plan, you can be sure that we will have examined it and found it to be sound. Our lives and our livelihood depend on it.

I can tell you, too, that we knew this land they call ANWR before it had an English name. It holds the remains of our ancestors, just as it holds the future of our children. Our great great grandfathers enjoyed its beauty and its bounty, and with careful development, our great great grandchildren will do the same.

Don't misunderstand me. We are well aware of environmental concerns surrounding development in the Arctic. We live in constant awareness of these concerns.

In fact, we formed the North Slope Borough as a tool to allow us to address these concerns in the course of development. Believe me, we were scared about what Prudhoe Bay development might do to our land and our lifestyle. Our fears turned out to be largely unfounded, but they were valid nonetheless. They kept us vigilant. They forced us to demand a seat at the planning table. They inspired us to speak loudly and firmly, and to insist that development proceed respectfully, in a manner compatible with our lifestyle. We succeeded in protecting our interests at Prudhoe Bay, and we will succeed in ANWR as well.

We have no choice.

It has not always been easy for us. We've had our battles. We fought for the right to form our own regional government and to enforce our own planning ordinances. But our culture places a high value on cooperation, and we learned how to develop a sense of partnership with the industry. That mutual respect and willingness to work together has strengthened over the years. I think we have been a pretty good partner, especially when you consider the cultural gulf that has sometimes separated us.

I hope those of you in the industry will remember the sense of partnership that we have shared, and I hope you will continue to build on this relationship with us. I mention this because I was just elected Chairman of the Alaska Gasline Port Authority. As you probably know, the Port Authority is a consortium formed by the three municipalities along the route of the oil pipeline. We joined together because we want to encourage gasline development in the oil pipeline corridor. We believe that the Port Authority offers some substantial tax and financing benefits to the producers. It also offers a method for spinning off an annual payment to Alaskan municipalities all over the state. We think the Port Authority might be a very good mechanism for bringing all Alaskans together with the producers for the best possible pipeline project.

Whether or not the Port Authority is the ultimate sponsor of a gasline, I think we incorporate some of the best elements of a gas pipeline plan that benefits Alaskans. These include a route that goes south through Fairbanks; provision for in-state uses of gas; jobs for Alaskans; and a stake in the project that extends to as many Alaskans as possible. During my term as Chairman, I plan to promote these features as much as I can.

Getting back to ANWR, there is one other aspect of the ongoing political battle that really bothers me. When the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act extinguished our land claims in exchange for title to certain lands within our traditional territory, we lived up to our part of that deal. We ended our claims to ownership of all the land.

But after the federal government conveyed title to our lands under ANCSA, it turned around and passed laws that prevented us from doing anything with those lands. I'm talking about our Arctic Slope lands within ANWR. We are not allowed to use this property now that we have title to it. What kind of a deal is that?

I know that everyone in this room has more than one ANWR gripe with the government, but I did want to share that one with you. While our perspective on ANWR issues may differ from yours in certain ways, we do have a whole lot in common. Like you, we have watched the technology of oil development improve over the years. We know that ANWR development can be done much less intrusively than when Prudhoe Bay was developed. We know that the nation needs the oil, the state needs the revenues, and Alaskans need the jobs.

In short, we know that ANWR holds resources that can be safely extracted without destruction to the ecosystem. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the bottom line.

In closing, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak with you today. Together we will make sure that the truth is heard.

[Back to Main Page](#)

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City of Kaktovik
Office of the Mayor

(907) 640-6313
(907) 640-6315
Fax (907) 640-6914

February 7, 2000

To: All residents of Kaktovik
Re: ANWR Survey

Dear Residents,

Here are the survey results that you helped us conduct. The survey was a questionnaire about what local people thought about the possible exploration and development for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It tried to address the Kaktovik people's concerns about oil and gas development, wildlife and the environment and how each affects the other.

The survey was conducted between January 14, 2000 and January 28, 2000 in Kaktovik. There were sixty-eight (68) people who answered and returned the surveys. Thank you very much for your assistance. It's important that other people elsewhere know what the local people here think about their land. Some of the questions add up to more than 100% because some people checked more than one answer on those questions.

The results are also posted on the City's web site. Its address is: kaktovik.com. We hope that you also enjoyed the Kaktovik calendars. We plan on doing another calendar next year, so if you have some good, clear pictures that you would like to see included on the next calendar, please bring the pictures to the City Office. We'll scan them in and give them right back to you. Once again, thank you for your help on this survey.

Sincerely,



Lon Sonsalla, Mayor



Results of the January 2000 survey of Kaktovik residents regarding ANWR

1. Do you participate in the harvest of whales, game and fish to sustain your diet?
 - 71% A. Yes. My family actively participates in all of the above.
 - 16% B. Yes. My family hunts game and fishes.
 - 4% C. Yes. My family participates in fishing.
 - 7% D. No. My family does not harvest whales, game or fish to sustain our diet.

2. Please estimate the percentage of your family's food that comes from the harvest of whale, game & fish.
 - 16% A. 100% — My family only consumes harvested game.
 - 34% B. 75% — My family eats mostly harvested game.
 - 24% C. 50% — My family eats some harvested game and purchases the rest.
 - 16% D. 25% — My family occasionally eats harvested game.
 - 7% E. 10% — My family eats harvested game when it is given to us.
 - 4% F. 0% — My family does not hunt or fish and we only eat food that is purchased.

3. What is the number one advantage of oil development on the North Slope?
 - 44% A. Improved schools
 - 35% B. Improved health care
 - 53% C. Improved job opportunities
 - 21% D. Improved recreation activities
 - 4% E. No advantage
 - 8% F. Other

4. The quality of life in Kaktovik will diminish if oil development ceases.
 - 31% A. Strongly agree
 - 40% B. Agree
 - 15% C. Neutral
 - 8% D. Disagree
 - 6% E. Strongly disagree

5. As government spending continues to decline, what public services do you fear most of losing?
 - 44% A. Municipal Services (running water, electrical service, sanitation, etc.)
 - 50% B. Health care
 - 16% C. Public Transportation
 - 35% D. Education
 - 7% E. Recreation activities
 - 6% F. Other

6. To what degree are you satisfied with the environmental practices of the oil industry on the North Slope?
 - 35% A. Very satisfied
 - 40% B. Somewhat satisfied
 - 18% C. Neutral
 - 4% D. Somewhat dissatisfied
 - 1% E. Very dissatisfied

7. Please mark the advantages and disadvantages you see of opening ANWR to oil and gas development.

Advantages:

 - 68% 1. More jobs for local people
 - 26% 2. Will stabilize the economy
 - 50% 3. Will help Kaktovik grow
 - 26% 4. More business opportunities
 - 13% 5. Other

- Disadvantages:
- 22% 1. Will increase population
 - 31% 2. May hurt wildlife
 - 25% 3. May hurt the environment
 - 46% 4. Increased alcohol and drug abuse
 - 5% 5. Other

8. If ANWR is not opened to oil and gas exploration, what other resources are available in Kaktovik that, if developed, will help sustain our economy?
 - 15% A. Coal
 - 35% B. Tourism
 - 38% C. Fishing
 - 44% D. Arts & Crafts
 - 15% E. Other

9. Based on your information about the Porcupine Caribou Herd, will oil development in ANWR diminish the herd's use of the core calving area?
 - 18% A. Yes. The caribou will go away.
 - 18% B. It might affect their use, but the oil companies can stop drilling during calving season.
 - 15% C. I don't know.
 - 15% D. More research is needed.
 - 41% E. No. The caribou will not be affected.

10. The coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should be open to oil and gas exploration.
- 43% A. Strongly agree
 - 35% B. Agree
 - 10% C. Neutral
 - 5% D. Disagree
 - 4% E. Strongly disagree
- Handwritten notes: 78% < (next to A), 9% < (next to B)



ANWR INFORMATION BRIEF

Myths of ANWR:

In 1980, the 1.5 million acre Coastal Plain of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was specially designated by Congress for further study of its oil and gas potential. Most of the rest of ANWR's 19 million acres is already designated as Wilderness.

Groups seeking to stop oil exploration in Alaska want to designate the Coastal Plain as Wilderness (most of ANWR is formally designated Wilderness now), and present several misleading arguments:

Here are the "myths" being told about ANWR, and the truth:

***Myth:** All of Alaska's Arctic coast is open to oil and gas development.

Reality: With the exception of the area between the Colville and Canning Rivers (which is owned by the state of Alaska) none of the more than 1000 miles of Arctic Alaska coastline is open to oil and gas leasing, not one mile of it.

***Myth:** The state of Alaska will get 90 percent of any royalties from oil production in ANWR's Coastal Plain.

Reality: The federal government won litigation in the Supreme Court of the United States which allows congress to determine the share of revenues with the State of Alaska. Congress wants 50/50.

***Myth:** Alaska's indigenous people are against oil exploration in the Coastal Plain.

Reality: Alaska's Inupiat Eskimo people, who live on the North Slope (one village, Kaktovik, is the only community within ANWR) strongly support onshore oil and gas exploration in the Coastal Plain, and elsewhere on the North Slope. Some of the Gwichins, who live 150 miles south of the Coastal Plain, are opposed to development. The Gwichins leased their own lands for oil exploration, but no oil was found. Now they oppose the Inupiat's having the same rights to explore.

***Myth:** We need to save ANWR's oil for our grandchildren.

Reality: It will supply our children and grandchildren. If the Coastal Plain were opened today it would be 10 years, and probably longer, before the first oil reached American consumers. Oil from the Coastal Plain will supply America in a time when oil from foreign sources will certainly be more expensive and in shorter supply than today.

***Myth:** The Coastal Plain may have only a 200 day supply of oil. That is not worth developing.



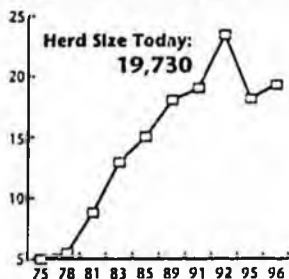
Reality: A 200 day supply is almost 4 billion barrels. The Coastal Plain probably contains much more oil, but it can be produced at a maximum rate of 2 million barrels per day (capacity of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline).

Therefore, it could last for 25 years, and probably much longer.

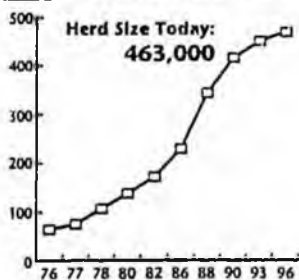
Do the caribou really care?

Are caribou adversely affected by oil development on the North Slope? The answer is no, based on thirty years of scientific observations. The Central Arctic Herd, which uses the area around Prudhoe Bay, has increased six fold in population since oil development started in the early 1970s. There are four major caribou herds in northern Alaska. Besides the Porcupine and Central Arctic Herds, there is the Western Arctic Herd, which is more than twice the size of the Porcupine Herd, and the smaller Teshekpuk Lake Herd. Populations of these herds rise and fall by natural cycles. Three decades of oil and gas activity in the central North Slope has had no negative impact.

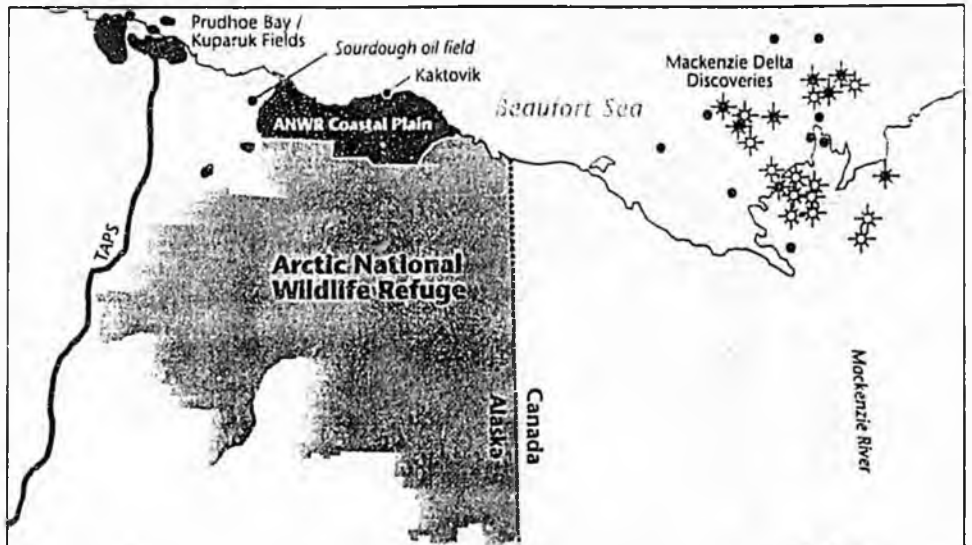
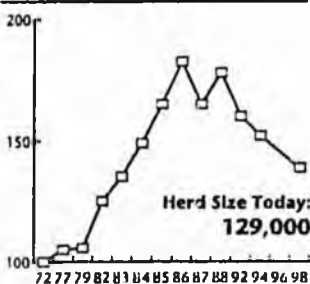
Central Arctic Herd:
Number of caribou times 1,000



Western Arctic Herd:



Porcupine Herd:



Source: Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Myths of ANWR: Don't be misled

FROM FRONT SIDE

***Myth:** Development of the Coastal Plain will destroy the caribou.

Reality: The same claim was made about the trans-Alaska pipeline 22 years ago, but today North Slope caribou herds along the pipeline and near the North Slope oil fields are thriving.

***Myth:** ANWR's oil will be exported, and will not reduce our dependency on foreign oil.

Reality: Since 1996, less than 6% of North Slope oil has been exported. Exports can be stopped by a Presidential order. The U.S. exports advanced technologies, much more valuable and unique than oil. Few object to that.

***Myth:** Alaskan oil development is environmentally damaging.

Reality: The North Slope's petroleum industry is the cleanest, most technologically advanced and most heavily regulated in the world. Facilities are designed for minimal environmental impact.

***Myth:** The Coastal Plain is unspoiled wilderness, an Arctic Serengeti.

Reality: This is no Serengeti. The Coastal Plain is a frozen, barren land for 9 months of the year. The Inupiat people have lived and hunted there for centuries; 19th century whalers hunted extensively for food; military and defense contractors built DEWline radar sites; recreation groups use it for rafting and hiking. Other areas of the North Slope are more biologically sensitive than the Coastal Plain.

ANWR Facts:

- Refuge totals 19.6 million acres.
- 8 million acres designated Wilderness;
- Coastal Plain, 1.5 million acres, set aside by Congress for study of oil potential;
- Only a small percentage of Coastal Plain, about 2,000 acres, would be impacted by oil development;

The Coastal Plain is not a pristine wilderness:

- A community, Kaktovik, exists in the Coastal Plain; Military installations operate in the plain now and in the past.

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A CASE FOR OIL DEVELOPMENT IN ALASKA

* The U.S. imports over 55% of the nation's needed petroleum. These oil imports cost more than \$100 billion a year. These figures are rising and could exceed 65% imports by the year 2020.

* Beneath a 1.5 million acre tract on the North Slope of Alaska is estimated to be between 6 and 16 billion barrels of recoverable oil (between 11.6 and 31.5 billion barrels in-place). This area is a specially designated area within the 19 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), known as the "Coastal Plain". This region was designated by Congress in 1981 as requiring special study to determine its oil and gas potential and the effects of development on the environment. In 1987, the Department of Interior recommended development. Congressional and presidential authorization is required for the Coastal Plain to be open.

* ANWR production could replace imports of Saudi oil for over 30 years.

* Prudhoe Bay, located 60 miles to the west of ANWR, has been operating for over 20 years and has produced in excess of 10 billion barrels of oil during that time. It is among the most environmentally sensitive oil operations in the world. Present output from Prudhoe Bay area fields has declined to 1.1 million barrels per day, and is continuing to decline.

* The Coastal Plain of ANWR is America's best bet for the discovery of another giant "Prudhoe Bay-sized" oil and gas region in North America. Many economic benefits would result:

- The Coastal Plain could produce up to 1.5 million barrels per day for at least 25 years - nearly 25% of current daily U.S. production.
- The U.S. would save \$14 billion per year in oil imports.
- Between 250,000 and 735,000 jobs are estimated to be created by development of the Coastal Plain.
- Federal revenues would be enhanced by billions of dollars from bonus bids, lease rentals, royalties, and taxes.

* Advancing technology has greatly reduced the "footprint" of Arctic oil development. If Prudhoe Bay were built today, the footprint would be 1,526 acres, 64% smaller.

* Oil and gas development and wildlife are successfully coexisting in Alaska's Arctic. For example, the Central Arctic caribou herd at Prudhoe Bay has grown from 3,000 to as high as 27,000 during the last 20 years.

* More than 71% of Alaskans favor exploration and production in ANWR. Polling conducted in April, 2000.

* The Inupiat Eskimos who live in and near ANWR strongly support onshore oil development on the Coastal Plain.

* For more information logon to www.anwr.org or call 907-274-2697.

1/29/01

Alaska State Legislature

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House Resources Committee

Agenda
February 7, 2001

Call to Order

Roll Call

Items of Business

SCR1 – Avalanche Awareness Month – Sen. Lyda Green

HJR 7 – Endorsing ANWR Leasing – Rep. Masek

Upcoming Meetings

10 AM, Thursday, February 15 – Alyeska Pipeline
Joint w/House Committee on Oil & Gas;
Senate Finance, Room 532

1 PM, Wednesday, February 14 – federal co-management
update

Noon, Thursday, February 15 – Oil and Gas LNG market in
Japan and Asia
Shigeru Muraki, General Manager, Gas Resources Dept., Tokyo
Gas Co. ; Joint w/Senate Resources and House Oil and Gas
Senate Finance, Room #532

Adjournment

22-LS0335V
Utermohle
1/31/01

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATOR GREEN

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to Avalanche Awareness Month.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** Alaskans live, work, and play in and on the edge of the wilderness; and

4 **WHEREAS** the abundance and variety of the state's winter recreational opportunities
5 are unmatched in the United States; and

6 **WHEREAS** many of the state's popular winter recreation areas are subject to
7 avalanche danger; and

8 **WHEREAS** some Alaskans are not properly educated or equipped to recognize and
9 respond to avalanches; and

10 **WHEREAS** a number of Alaskans are killed each year by avalanches; and

11 **WHEREAS** education on the recognition of avalanche risks, response to avalanches,
12 and the use of appropriate equipment could reduce avalanche-related fatalities;

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
14 governor to proclaim the month of November 2001 as Avalanche Awareness Month; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges schools, community
16 groups, and other public and private agencies and individuals to observe Avalanche

1 Awareness Month with appropriate activities that increase the public's awareness of avalanche
2 dangers, how to respond to avalanches, and the use of appropriate equipment in avalanche
3 areas.

4 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor; to
5 Aedene Arthur, Backcountry Avalanche Awareness and Response Team; to Doug Fesler and
6 Jill Fredston, co-directors, The Alaska Mountain Safety Center, Inc.; to Bill Glude, Southeast
7 Alaska Avalanche Center; to Colonel Randy Crawford, Director, Division of Alaska State
8 Troopers, Alaska Department of Public Safety; to the mayors, chiefs of police, and fire chiefs
9 of the Municipality of Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Haines Borough, City and
10 Borough of Juneau, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, City and
11 Borough of Sitka, City of Cordova, City of Fairbanks, City of Haines, City of Palmer, City of
12 Petersburg, City of Seward, City of Skagway, City of Valdez, and City of Wasilla; to the
13 operators of the ski areas at Eaglecrest, Alyeska, Alpenglowlow, Hilltop, Cleary Summit, and
14 Cordova Ski Hill; and to legislative communication offices for statewide distribution.



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HJR. 7 ~ Opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

TO: House Resource Committee

DATE: February 7, 2001

Alaska Conservation Alliance and Alaska Conservation Voters are sister nonprofit organizations dedicated to protecting Alaska's environment through public education and advocacy. Our 44 member organizations and businesses represent over 35,000 registered Alaskan voters. Like most Americans, our members are concerned about the energy distribution problems in California and the effects such problems have on the health of our national economy. We do not, however, believe that opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration and drilling is the answer to the current situation. We present the following information for your consideration and urge you to vote "NO" on HJR 7.

- **It is disingenuous to lead the American people to believe that we can drill our way to oil independence.** The amount of oil under the Refuge is, at best, a geologic guess and, at worst, the subject of much wishful overestimating. The most recent USGS assessment estimates that 3.2 to 5.7 billion barrels of economically recoverable oil may lie underneath the Arctic Refuge – less than one year's worth of U.S. supply. While oil proponents choose to use inflated "technically" recoverable reserve numbers, these numbers do not account for real-life scenarios. Residents of the United States represent less than 5% of the world's population, yet we use about 25% of the world's produced oil each year. The United States holds only 2% of the world's total oil reserves. Our voracious appetite for oil will not be satisfied by domestic supplies.
- **Images of caribou rubbing themselves on the oil pipeline do not accurately portray the environmental impacts of oil development on the North Slope.** Despite the reported increase in the Central Arctic caribou herd, ADF&G biologist Pat Valkenberg stated: "I don't think [the data] tell us anything about caribou and oil development." (ADN article 1/15/01) Studies showing displacement of calving female caribou southward away from the Prudhoe area document that oil development does impact these animals. Further, our concern should not focus just upon the caribou, but rather upon the potential disruption of the United State's only intact Arctic ecosystem that the Refuge encompasses. We currently do not know enough about oil development impacts nor how to mitigate the impacts to put this area and its wildlife resources at risk for 6 to 12 months' supply of oil.

Continued

Conserve Alaska. It's Only Natural.

subsistence lifestyle and cultures of all residents of the North Slope should be protected, whether those resources are marine-based, such as the bowhead whale, or land-based, as the caribou.

Page 1, Line 15: WHEREAS oil and gas exploration and development of the coastal plain of the refuge and adjacent land could result in major discoveries that would reduce our nation's future need for imported oil, help balance the nation's trade deficit, and significantly increase the nation's security;

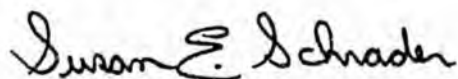
RESPONSE: While the United States consumes roughly 25% (one-quarter) of the world's produced oil, we control only 2% of the world's total oil reserves within our boundaries. Our rate of consumption is so voracious (despite comprising less than 5% of the world's population, we use 25% of its oil), no domestic drilling program could ever produce energy independence.

Page 2, line 24: WHEREAS the 1,500,000-acre coastal plain of the refuge makes up only eight percent of the 19,000,000-acre refuge, and the development of the oil and gas reserves in the refuge's coastal plain would affect an area of only 2,000 to 7,000 acres, which is less than one-half of one percent of the area of the coastal plain;

RESPONSE: Biologists consider the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to be the biological heart of the United State's only complete Arctic and sub-Arctic ecosystem. Despite claims of smaller foot-prints and roadless development, drilling in the Refuge would involve full-scale industrialization, including pipelines, drill pads, waste treatment facilities, and gravel mines.

Page 2, line 30: WHEREAS the oil industry has shown at Prudhoe Bay, as well as at other locations along the Arctic coastal plain, that it can safely conduct oil and gas activity without adversely affecting the environment or wildlife populations; and

RESPONSE: Although oil development in the Refuge will not completely eliminate the Porcupine Caribou herd, based upon scientific studies at Prudhoe, it is reasonable to expect significant and detrimental effects to the caribou that use the Refuge. Most of the resident caribou herd in Prudhoe Bay has abandoned their traditional calving grounds due to oil field activity and have been pushed further south, away from drilling activities. While the coastal plain at Prudhoe Bay is over 150 miles wide, allowing caribou to move south to calve, the plain in the Refuge is only 15 to 40 miles wide. Development on the plain here would likely displace the caribou towards the foothills of the Brooks Range where there are more predators and poorer quality forage, resulting in lower calf survival.



Susan E. Schrader, Conservation Advocate

CARIBOU AND OIL DEVELOPMENT ON THE NORTH SLOPE

An Overview by Ken Whitten, retired ADF&G Wildlife Biologist

Each caribou herd has its own, discrete calving area. Other seasonal habitats for caribou tend to be widespread, but the combined features of scarce predators and high quality forage that characterize calving areas usually occur together on only a small portion of a caribou herd's overall range. Therefore calving grounds are considered to be critical habitats. Prudhoe Bay and other operating oilfields on Alaska's North Slope are within the calving grounds of the Central Arctic Herd. This herd was quite small (only about 5,000) when oil development first started in the mid-1970s (Cameron and Whitten 1979), but impacts from development were soon noted. Calving within the Prudhoe Field had already largely ceased by the time oil first began flowing south (Whitten and Cameron 1985). The dense network of pipelines, roads, oil wells, and production facilities at Prudhoe Bay also blocked mid-summer caribou movements along the arctic coast (Whitten and Cameron 1983). Cow and calf caribou avoided the Trans Alaska Pipeline Corridor (Cameron et al. 1979), but continued to cross it successfully from late summer through spring, when calves were older and the herd was south of the intensely developed oilfields (Whitten and Cameron 1983).

In spite of these impacts, the Central Arctic Herd thrived during the early years of oil development and grew to about 14,000 by 1983. By the time development expanded into the Kuparuk area during the 1980s, the petroleum industry had begun to consolidate facilities so that newer oilfields disturbed less space. Also, some pipelines were raised higher above ground and placed away from roads with heavy traffic. These new designs allowed caribou to move more freely than at Prudhoe Bay, and caribou continued to use the Kuparuk and Milne Pt. Oilfields. Nevertheless, caribou with newborn calves still avoided developed areas, even when there was little traffic (Dau and Cameron 1986, Cameron et al. 1992). Over time, the Kuparuk and Milne Fields became more heavily developed, and caribou used them less and less (Cameron et al. 1992; Smith et al. 1994).

By the late 1980s, growth of the Central Arctic Herd slowed, and the population stabilized at about 23,000. Harsh climatic conditions, including severe winters and dry summer growing seasons, stressed caribou throughout much of Alaska during the early 1990s. Central Arctic caribou that spent more time in or near the oilfields gained less weight during the summer growing season and had lower pregnancy rates and lower calf survival than other members of the herd that seldom encountered development (Cameron 1995). Avoidance of roads and pipelines during calving was thought to be causing abandonment of preferred habitats and overuse of undisturbed habitats (Nellemann and Cameron, unpubl.). Chronic disruption of summer movements also exacerbated exposure of caribou to insect pests. The Central Arctic Herd declined to 18,000 in 1993 and then grew slowly to about 20,000 in 1995.

By the late 1990s the ever expanding oilfields had been almost completely abandoned for calving, and many caribou were displaced to rolling hills with lower forage, south and west of their old calving area. Nevertheless, favorable weather once again prevailed in the range of the Central Arctic Herd. Calf productivity and survival recovered and the Central Arctic once again increased rapidly, reaching 27,000 in the year 2000.

The United States Congress continues to debate expansion of North Slope oil development onto the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The potential lease area within the Arctic Refuge lies within the calving grounds of the Porcupine

Caribou Herd. This large, migratory herd moves between the U.S. and Canada and is vital to the traditional subsistence cultures of numerous Native villages in both countries. Over the past 25 years, the Porcupine Herd has fluctuated between about 100,000 and 180,000 animals, with the current population about 120,000.

In determining whether to allow oil leasing within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Congress should consider that Porcupine Herd caribou are much more concentrated on their calving ground than the smaller Central Arctic Herd. Although calving has occurred historically over a fairly large area of the North Slope in Alaska and the Yukon Territory, most calves are usually born in a smaller region that includes much of the area being considered for oil development (Fancy and Whitten 1991). During late June and early July, essentially all cows and calves and many bulls of the Porcupine Herd use the potential development area every year.

Even during periods of relatively mild climatic conditions, Porcupine Herd caribou have tended to have somewhat lower calf production and adult survival rates than most other caribou herds. In contrast, calf survival in the Porcupine Herd has generally been very high when females have been able to calve on the traditional calving area that includes the potential oil lease area (Fancy and Whitten 1991, Whitten et al. 1992). As with other caribou calving areas, rapid, nutritious plant growth often occurs on the Arctic Refuge coastal plain during calving (National Biological Service, unpubl.), and the coastal plain is also relatively free of predators. Calf survival has been lower when late snowmelt forced Porcupine Herd caribou to calve in nearby mountains and foothills where wolves, grizzly bears, and golden eagles abound (Whitten et al. 1992).

Studies in the Prudhoe Bay and Kuparuk oilfields show that larger groups (100 or more caribou) have difficulty crossing roads and pipes (Smith and Cameron 1985). Porcupine Herd caribou normally occur in much larger groups than Central Arctic Herd caribou. Groups of several thousand caribou occur throughout the summer in the Porcupine Herd, and from mid-June through July group sizes in the tens of thousands are common.

In summary, development of the Prudhoe Bay oilfield displaced caribou and disrupted their movements. Similar long-term displacement now appears to be occurring even in the "state-of-the-art" Kuparuk and Milne Pt. Oilfields. When climate has been generally favorable, the Central Arctic herd has been able to hold its own and even increase, in spite of displacement from some of its favored habitats. In times of environmental stress, however, Central Arctic caribou that regularly used the oilfields fared poorly relative to other members of the herd that used areas away from development. The entire population then declined. Mitigation measures that appeared to work fairly well in the early stages of North Slope oilfield development may thus become less effective as more and more of the Central Arctic Herd's preferred habits are developed and more caribou are concentrated on the habitats that remain accessible.

We cannot be certain that even current state-of-the-art mitigation measures will guarantee access to critical habitats for the larger, more densely aggregated Porcupine Herd. Environmental resources at risk in developing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are considerable. The Porcupine Herd far exceeds the Central Arctic Herd in importance as a regional subsistence resource. Preferred coastal plain habitats in the Arctic Refuge are much narrower (10-40 miles wide) than in the range of the Central Arctic Herd (100-150 miles wide). Disturbance has so far only displaced Central Arctic caribou to other coastal plain habits with few predators. If similar spatial displacement were to occur in the Arctic Refuge, however, caribou would be driven to foothills and mountains with more abundant predators and/or lower quality forage. Consequently, the Porcupine Herd might not fare

as well as the Central Arctic Herd apparently did during the early years of Prudhoe Bay. The Porcupine Herd might well experience adverse population level impacts from development even during periods of mild weather. Any impacts that would cause a long-term decline in calf survival could lower average population size over time, with serious consequences for many residents in both Canada and the U.S.

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Web posted **Friday, February 2, 2001**

ANWR drilling will make all of us suffer

My turn

A column
By HANK LENTFER

The Bush administration, along with Gov. Knowles and the Alaska delegation, are touting new technologies designed to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in an environmentally sensitive manner. They brush off conservationists' warnings as alarmist rhetoric. Besides, as these politicians are quick to point out, the combined footprint of all proposed roads, runways and drilling pads is only 2,000 acres, a small fraction of the millions of acres of refuge land. What's the big deal?

Perhaps they are right. Perhaps the environmentalists are getting their shorts in a knot about a desolate, mosquito-infested, frozen wasteland where no one goes anyway. Perhaps oil can be removed without hurting the Porcupine caribou herd. Perhaps double-wall pipe and tougher tankers will prevent spills and transport the precious fluid safely to our gas tanks. If they are right, is it still a good idea?

Consider this: Each gallon of gas poured into our tanks weighs eight pounds. When that gas is burned five pounds of carbon is released into the atmosphere in the form of carbon dioxide. That's the chemistry of it - doesn't matter what kind car you drive or how fast you drive it. The molecular structure of that CO2 traps heat near the planet that would otherwise radiate back out to space. The result? The planet is heating up. How fast? According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a U.N. body comprising

It is both alarming and embarrassing that the leaders of our state (and the country) are so blinded by short-term financial gain that they have lost sight of the bigger picture. The only safe place for the Arctic's oil is right where it is - in the ground. Pull it out of the ground and it will get spilled - if not in the ocean then into the air.

the world's climatologists, by century's end the world's temperature will likely have increased about five degrees Fahrenheit, with a worst-case scenario of 10 or 11 degrees. We have already burned enough fossil fuel to warm the planet by a degree and half. As pointed out in last Sunday's editorial, that's enough heat that even oil man Bush will not be able to continue denying the issue for long.

Ironically, the effects of global warming are most strongly felt in the Arctic where the ice cap has shrunk by 40 percent since 1960 and permafrost is turning to soup. Continue melting that ice and the salinity of the oceans will change which will change global currents which change global weather in an escalating and unpredictable unraveling of the environment. The same environment our governor is trying to protect with new drilling technology.

It is both alarming and embarrassing that the leaders of our state (and the country) are so blinded by short-term financial gain that they have lost sight of the bigger picture. The only safe place for the Arctic's oil is right where it is - in the ground. Pull it out of the ground and it will get spilled - if not in the ocean then into the air. We need that oil right now like an addict needs another hit of heroin. We have enough oil - too much for our own good. The sane course is to take the political energy our leaders are burning in an effort to open the refuge and focus it on developing cleaner sources of power. Our governor would be a wiser man if he quit flying back to D.C. lobbying for development and worked on ways to reduce consumption.

Is development of the refuge really best for our state and the nation or does it mostly benefit the already rich and powerful oil companies? Is Arctic oil really the answer to the high price of gas and California's energy crisis or does it just delay the inevitable switch to cleaner energy by a few months?

When we discuss the environmental consequences of oil development we must look beyond the acreage of tundra buried by gravel roads and the latest and greatest drilling technology. We must look beyond the short-term financial boost that additional oil revenues will bring to our state. We must not be so worried about our jobs that we fail to wonder about our grandchildren. We must not get so lost in debating the integrity of today's tundra that we forget about the planet's future.

Hank Lentfer is a freelance writer who lives in Gustavus.

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November 1, 2000

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As scientists and natural resource managers from the United States and Canada with many years of experience in ecology, wildlife and conservation biology, resource management and cultural anthropology, we encourage you to secure permanent protection for the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The wildlands of the Arctic Refuge include the barrier islands and estuaries of the Beaufort Sea, the Arctic coastal plain, the Brooks Range, and the boreal forest within the upper Yukon River watershed. First set aside by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as the Arctic National Wildlife Range in 1960, this is the United States' only conservation unit that encompasses an intact arctic ecosystem. Combined with the adjacent Ivvavik and Vuntut national parks in Canada, the Arctic Refuge represents one of the largest protected landscapes in the world. Moreover, the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain is a rare example of an ecosystem where ecological and cultural processes continue to interact much as they have for thousands of years. Unlike the adjoining refuge lands, that are designated Wilderness, the coastal plain is not permanently protected from development.

When President Eisenhower established the Arctic National Wildlife Range, he had the foresight and wisdom to include the entire ecosystem both south and north of the Brooks Range, encompassing the biologically rich coastal plain considered essential to the integrity of this ecosystem. In 1980, Congress enlarged the range to encompass additional wildlife habitat and designated this unique area the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge mission was broadened to include international research and management, as well as support for subsistence uses that form the basis of Native cultural values. Most of the original wildlife range was designated as a Wilderness. Only the 1.5 million-acre coastal plain was omitted. And today, this oversight remains a significant concern.

Five decades of biological study and scientific research have confirmed that the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge forms a vital component of the biological diversity of the refuge and merits the same kind of permanent safeguards and precautionary management as the rest of this original conservation unit. In contrast to the broad (greater than 150 mi.) coastal plain to the west of the Arctic Refuge, the coastal plain within the refuge is much narrower (15-40 mi.). This unique compression of

habitats concentrates the occurrence of a wide variety of species, including polar bears, grizzly bears, wolves, wolverines, caribou, muskoxen, Dolly Varden, Arctic grayling, snow geese, and more than 130 other species of migratory birds. In fact, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Arctic Refuge coastal plain contains the greatest wildlife diversity of any protected area above the Arctic Circle.

The coastal plain provides essential calving and post-calving habitat for the Porcupine Caribou Herd, the largest (at about 130,000 animals) international migratory caribou herd in the world. The United States and Canada share the immense responsibility of managing this herd and protecting the key habitats on which the herd depends. In 1987, the two nations signed an international agreement to protect the Porcupine Caribou Herd. Since then, the calving grounds on the Canadian side of the border have received full protection, while the United States has not yet taken similar steps to adequately protect this essential habitat within the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge, where most calving occurs. The Gwich'in Nation of Alaska and Canada depends upon the sustained productivity of the Porcupine Caribou Herd and are justifiably concerned about its security. Extensive research on the Central Arctic Caribou Herd at Prudhoe Bay indicates appreciable losses of preferred calving and summer habitats in response to petroleum development and the possibility of an associated decline in reproductive success.

Biologists also have identified conservation concerns with other wildlife populations in the Arctic Refuge, including polar bears, muskoxen, and snow geese. Although many polar bears den on the pack ice, the refuge's coastal plain is the most important land denning area for Beaufort Sea bears in Alaska. Muskoxen are year-round residents of the coastal plain, and disturbance from industrial development, particularly in winter, holds the potential to increase energetic costs and result in decreased calf production. Also, snow geese might be displaced from important feeding and staging habitats prior to autumn migration, increasing energy expenditure and reducing their ability to accumulate the fat needed for migration. The coastal plain serves many biological functions, including nesting habitat for shorebirds, waterfowl, songbirds, raptors, and other migratory birds.

The Interior Department predicts that oil and gas exploration and development would have a major effect on water resources. Fresh water already is limited on the refuge's coastal plain, and direct damage to wetlands will adversely affect fish, waterfowl, and other migratory birds. These potentially disruptive effects to fish and wildlife should not be viewed in isolation, however. Arctic ecosystems are characterized by many complex interactions, and changes to one component may have secondary but significant effects on other parts of this fragile ecosystem. Based on our collective experience and understanding of the cumulative effects of oil and gas exploration and development on Alaska's North Slope, we do not believe these impacts have been adequately considered for the Arctic Refuge, and mitigation without adequate data on this complex ecosystem is unlikely.

Oil exploration and development have substantially changed environments where they have occurred in Alaska's central Arctic. Since the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay in

1968, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service estimated about 800 square miles of Arctic habitats have been transformed into one of the world's largest industrial complexes. Oil spills, contaminated waste, and other sources of pollution have had measurable impacts on this environment. Roads, pipelines, well pads, processing facilities, and other support infrastructure have incrementally altered the character of this ecosystem.

Thanks to your leadership, Mr. President, legislation that would have allowed petroleum exploration and development on the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge was defeated in 1995 and again this year. Nonetheless, we are concerned that vigorous and persistent efforts to mandate oil development will be successful unless administrative or legislative action provides permanent protection for this national conservation unit. Your administration has the opportunity to ensure the conservation of this unique Arctic ecosystem in perpetuity.

Please understand that we are not philosophically opposed to oil and gas development in Alaska. Indeed, we all clearly recognize the need for balanced resource management. But we also recognize the importance of maintaining the biological diversity and ecosystem integrity of our nation's Arctic. Nearly the entire Arctic Coast of Alaska north of the Brooks Range is available for oil and gas exploration or development. The 110-mile-long coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge encompasses 1.5 million acres of key wildlife habitat vital to the integrity of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Whether this unique area remains intact and protected is now in your hands. We urge you, Mr. President, to permanently protect, for future generations, the biological diversity and wilderness character of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Thank you for considering our concerns and recommendations.

Sincerely,

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(Note: The opinions of the scientists above do not necessarily represent the policies or views of the agencies or institutions with which they are affiliated.)

Pertinent References

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December 11, 2000

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We recently joined over 200 of our colleagues in urging you to protect the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge). Our particular expertise is the ecology and conservation of Arctic caribou. Because so much of the debate over the future of the Arctic Refuge has focused on the Porcupine Caribou Herd, we wish to provide the following additional information on caribou and Arctic oil development to aid you in determining how best to protect the Refuge.

For nearly three decades, the Central Arctic Caribou Herd has been the subject of intensive research on its calving and summer ranges, which lie on the North Slope west of the Arctic Refuge, near Prudhoe Bay. Those studies clearly demonstrate adverse effects of petroleum-related disturbance.

Female caribou with newborn calves have been extremely sensitive to surface development and human activity. Their initial response was localized avoidance of roads (even with little or no traffic), pipelines, and processing/support facilities. As production proceeded, however, development became more extensive and maternal caribou faced diminishing options for finding nonstressful habitats. Over time, calving caribou gradually withdrew from the general oilfield area and sought acceptable habitats elsewhere. Calving no longer occurs in the original Prudhoe Bay complex and is now declining within the expanding Kuparuk complex to the west.

Cow caribou have been less sensitive to disturbance during midsummer when their calves are slightly older and less vulnerable to environmental hazards, but they still avoid the areas of most intensive development. Major caribou movements through the Prudhoe Bay area, a common occurrence in the early 1970's, are rare now that the oilfield is more intensively developed. Movements within and through the Kuparuk oilfield have also been altered substantially. Large aggregations of caribou, particularly when under insect harassment, tend to have difficulty crossing roads and elevated pipelines.

In spite of documented changes in caribou distribution and movements, industry advocates often claim that disturbance from petroleum development has had no overall adverse impact on caribou because the Central Arctic Herd increased after the oilfields were discovered and developed. We believe such claims are misleading. Until the early 1980s the Central Arctic Herd was at low density relative to its overall range, development occurred in only a small area, and local shifts in distribution of caribou were of little consequence. The herd increased from about 5,000 to more than 23,000 caribou by the early 1990s. By the mid-1990s, however, little calving occurred in any of the

active oilfields. Caribou still used the less developed areas at other times of year, but evidence began to accumulate suggesting that caribou in frequent contact with development were faring poorly relative to those that had little contact. Calf production and survival were occasionally very low near the oilfields, but consistently high elsewhere, and oversummer weight gain for cows was lower near the oilfields. Recent population counts and calf-productivity estimates indicate that the Central Arctic Herd has declined and may be stabilizing at about 20,000 caribou. Hence, effects on the Central Arctic Herd may have been negligible during early stages of development, which happened to occur during a period when climate and forage conditions were favorable and arctic caribou herds across North America were increasing. At the present time, though, cumulative and extensive development appears to be negatively impacting the nutrition and productivity of the Central Arctic Herd.

During development of the North Slope oilfields we learned that careful planning, timing of activities, and/or placement of facilities could effectively mitigate impacts on caribou and other wildlife. However, many of the most effective measures for mitigating disturbance have proven practical only during the exploration and construction stages of oilfield development. In producing oilfields, for example, it has not been possible to enforce limits on vehicular traffic or seasonal restrictions on activities during critical times of the year, such as calving. Oilfield development has tended to proceed incrementally, with planning and mitigation done in a piecemeal fashion with little opportunity to adjust strategies in relation to long-term or landscape-scale effects. We believe it is prudent to more fully understand long-term and cumulative effects of Arctic oil development before risking development of other, more sensitive areas than the oilfields around Prudhoe Bay. In this regard, we are encouraged to learn that, at the request of Congress, the National Research Council has established a committee of experts to evaluate "Cumulative Environmental Effects of Alaskan North Slope Oil and Gas Activities."

The Porcupine Caribou Herd, which calves on the Arctic refuge coastal plain, differs from the Central Arctic Herd in many ways. Currently at about 120,000 caribou, the Porcupine Herd has numbered between 100,000 and 180,000 over the past 30 years. The Central Arctic Herd remains on the North Slope in Alaska all year long. Only one Native community, Nuiqsut, lies in close proximity to the Central Arctic Herd's range, and its primary subsistence dependence is on fish, marine mammals, and a different caribou herd that ranges west of the community. In contrast the much larger Porcupine Herd migrates over a very large range in Alaska and northwestern Canada, and nearly a dozen villages in Alaska and Canada depend on it.

In most years, one half to three fourths of all Porcupine Herd calves are born on the Arctic Refuge coastal plain, which makes up only about 1/4 of the overall Porcupine Herd calving area. Since 1971, concentrated calving has taken place on the coastal plain in all but four years when forage was unavailable because of late snow cover. Caribou use the coastal plain even more consistently during the post-calving period. By the end of June every year, all females and calves of the Porcupine Herd are on the Arctic Refuge coastal plain. In most years, a majority of the bulls also join cows and calves on the

coastal plain to seek out highly nutritious forage and ready access to areas offering relief from harassment by abundant mosquitoes and parasitic flies.

Thus, the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge is already fully utilized by the Porcupine Herd during the calving and post-calving seasons. This is in sharp contrast to the situation with the Central Arctic Herd during the early years of oil development. Whereas it took many years for expanding development to substantially affect regional distribution and productivity of the Central Arctic Herd, we could reasonably expect more immediate impacts in the Arctic Refuge. Development on the coastal plain would likely displace Porcupine Herd caribou toward foothills and mountains with more predators and lower quality forage, quickly resulting in lowered calf survival. Also in contrast to the Central Arctic Herd, the Porcupine Herd regularly forms aggregations of tens of thousands of caribou during the stressful insect season. Smaller aggregations of a few hundred to a few thousand caribou of the Central Arctic Herd have had difficulty moving through the Prudhoe Bay and Kuparuk oilfields. Under conditions of oilfield development, we do not believe that large aggregations of Porcupine Herd caribou could continue to move across the coastal plain to take advantage of the new growth of important forage plants and to gain access to insect-relief sites on warm, calm days when the insects are most active.

In summary, state-of-the-art technology has not prevented displacement of calving from even the newer oilfields on the North Slope, and no proven technology exists that would ensure unrestricted passage through an oilfield of the large mid-summer aggregations of Porcupine Caribou. Considering the high degree of uncertainty regarding mitigation of oilfield impacts on caribou, ensuring the integrity of the calving grounds and early summer range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd is a compelling reason for applying the most precautionary management to the Arctic Refuge coastal plain. The Porcupine Herd is an international resource too important to put at risk.

Thank you for considering our concerns and recommendations.

Sincerely,

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Regional Biologist
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REFERENCES UPON WHICH OUR COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS ARE
BASED:

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President Bush's National Energy Policy

September 29, 2000

Governor George W. Bush:

"A Comprehensive National Energy Policy"

"America must have an energy policy that plans for the future, but meets the needs of today. I believe that we can develop our natural resources and protect our environment. We are paying a steep price for seven and a half years without an energy policy." – Governor George W. Bush

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Clinton-Gore Administration has failed to develop a comprehensive energy policy. It has raised gasoline taxes, discouraged domestic production of oil and natural gas, and admitted it was "caught napping" when oil prices spiked earlier this year. It has also failed to plan for the New Economy's accelerating demand for electricity. On this Administration's watch, U.S. dependence on foreign oil has jumped to 56 percent – the highest percentage ever. In 1973, during the oil crisis, U.S. dependence on foreign oil was at only 36 percent. Over the past seven and a half years, our international credibility has been diminished, and Saddam Hussein's Iraq is now a major oil supplier to the U.S.

Governor Bush understands that ensuring U.S. energy security requires presidential leadership and a comprehensive national energy policy. His policy, which includes more than 20 initiatives, helps low-income households with their energy bills, improves air quality, encourages the development of renewable and alternative fuels, and, recognizing that alternative sources supply less than 4 percent of U.S. energy needs, promotes access to foreign oil and the development of U.S. oil, coal and natural gas resources.

To Provide Energy Assistance to Low-Income Households and Address Short-Term Supply Threats, Governor Bush will:

- Expand the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) by seeking the release of \$155 million, and directing a portion of oil and gas royalty payments to the program, costing \$1 billion over ten years.
- Reform and increase the funding for the Weatherization Program and State Energy Program, costing \$1.4 billion over ten years.
- Establish a privately-managed Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve and allocate \$100 million over 10 years.
- Use the Strategic Petroleum Reserve only in times of war or major disruption in supply, and propose "wake up" legislation requiring the Department of Energy to notify Congress when oil stocks are low.

To Make Energy Security a Priority of U.S. Foreign Policy, Governor Bush will:

- Promote the development of a "North American Energy Policy" with Canada and Mexico.
- Reestablish U.S. influence and credibility with oil-producing nations in the Persian Gulf.
- Promote development of energy resources in non-OPEC countries, such as the Caspian Sea Basin and Western and Southern Africa.
- Establish an annual meeting of G-8 Energy Ministers, or their equivalents, to encourage international energy cooperation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To Promote the Development of U.S. Oil and Gas Resources, and To Meet the Electricity Needs of the New Economy, Governor Bush will:

- * > Open only 8 percent of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to environmentally responsible exploration, which could replace the oil that the U.S. now imports from Iraq.
- > Examine whether certain promising natural gas reserves in federal lands should be opened to environmentally responsible and regulated exploration.
- > Improve the regulatory process to encourage more refining capacity.
- > Require federal regulators to develop a comprehensive policy for approving pipelines.
- > Invest \$2 billion over ten years to fund research in "clean coal" technologies, \$1 billion over ten years to establish clear rules to help efficient utilities purchase nuclear plants, streamline the re-licensing process for hydroelectric projects, and oppose the breaching of dams.
- > Support federal legislation restructuring the electric utility industry.

To Protect the Environment and Develop Alternative Energy Sources, Governor Bush will:

- > Propose legislation *requiring* electric utilities to reduce harmful emissions; in contrast, Vice President Gore has advocated only a voluntary program.
- * > Create the "Royalties Conservation Fund" by earmarking potentially billions in royalties from new oil and gas exploration in ANWR to fund conservation efforts.
- * > Earmark an estimated \$1.2 billion of bid bonuses from opening up ANWR for funding research into alternative energy resources.
- > Support tax credits for electricity produced from renewable and alternative fuels at a cost of \$1.4 billion over ten years.



JUN 27 2001

FRAN ULMER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF ALASKA

June 25, 2001

The Honorable Beverly Masek
Alaska State Legislature
600 East Railroad Avenue, Suite 1
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Representative Masek:

As prime sponsor of CSHJR 7 (RES) am, Urging the United States Congress to pass legislation to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, to oil and gas exploration, development, and production; Lieutenant Governor Ulmer thought you might be interested in the enclosed letters. Copies have been sent to other sponsors of the resolution.

I hope you are enjoying your summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Collins".

Carol Collins
Special Assistant
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Enclosures



BOB BARR

7TH DISTRICT
GEORGIA

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

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FAX: (202) 225-2944

Internet: <http://www.house.gov/barr/>

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

1207 LONGWORTH HOUSE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-1007

COMMITTEES:

GOVERNMENT REFORM, Vice Chairman

FINANCIAL SERVICES

JUDICIARY

Chairman, Subcommittee
on Commercial and
Administrative Law

May 16, 2001

OFFICE OF THE

MAY 31 2001

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

The Honorable Fran Ulmer
Lieutenant Governor
State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110015
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Lieutenant Governor Ulmer:

Thank you for contacting me regarding drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

Currently, our nation is experiencing another energy crisis and the steady increase in natural gas and gasoline prices are threatening our economy. The United States cannot keep pace with the energy requirements without a coherent national energy strategy, which includes encouraging new domestic energy production. America is more dependent on foreign oil and demand in the United States is steadily increasing. The United States imports 56 percent of the oil it consumes and is costing more than \$100 billion annually.

On January 3, 2001, Congressman Don Young (R-AK) introduced the Arctic Coastal Plain Domestic Energy Security Act, H.R. 39 and it was referred to the House Committee on Resources. No further action has been taken on this legislation. H.R. 39 would declare it is the policy of the United States to permit exploration, development, production and transportation of oil and gas resources in a designated area of the Coastal Plain Study Area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

In addition, H.R. 39 would amend the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 to repeal the prohibition against production of oil and gas from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and any leasing or development leading to such production. Furthermore, H.R. 39 states that Congress determines that the Coastal Plain oil and gas leasing program and activities authorized by this Act are compatible with the purposes for which the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was established, and no further findings or decisions are required to implement this determination.

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The Honorable Fran Ulmer
May 16, 2001
Page 2

ANWR is 19 million acres of land, but only 1.5 million acre is being considered for the development. The remaining 17.5 million acres will remain permanently closed to any kind of development. The major advances in oil field technology and design now ensure the alteration of land will be minimal. Horizontal drilling now makes it possible to drill beneath 64 square miles of tundra from one small drilling pad. Most of ANWR would remain untouched by oil development, no federally designated Wilderness areas in the refuge or Alaska would be developed.

Again, thank you for contacting me. Your thoughts and comments are sincerely appreciated.

With kind regards, I am,

very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Barr', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

BOB BARR
Member of Congress

BB:sm

HAROLD E. FORD, JR.
9TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

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CONSUMER CREDIT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4209

May 1, 2001

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MAY 11 2001
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Ms. Fran Ulmer
PO Box 110015
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0015

Dear Ms. Ulmer:

Thank you for contacting the congressional office regarding wilderness designation for the costal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was established forty years ago as just that -- a wildlife refuge -- not an oil drilling area. No matter how well done, oil exploration and development have significant and lasting impacts on the environment. The 2001 Arctic Wilderness Bill, sponsored by Representatives Markey (D-MA) and Johnson (R-CT), has been proposed in order to protect the costal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from drilling and development. A similar bill has been sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Lieberman (D-CT). This legislation is an important step toward encouraging broader dialogue on a controversial issue.

Opening the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge will not solve our energy problems. The U.S. Geological Survey assessment of the costal plain estimates that the oil found in the Arctic Refuge would meet the petroleum needs of the United States for only four to six months. Environmentally sound steps must be taken to meet our nation's fuel demands. For example, increasing the average fuel efficiency of cars and trucks by 2 percent per year would conserve at least twice as much oil as would be found in the refuge.

Protecting our valuable environmental resources reaffirms our most enduring values as a nation and policymakers must find ways to save critical ecosystems in both an environmentally and economically sustainable way. The management of our natural assets must be based on sound science and economics, and I believe a sensible, comprehensive energy bill, which explores the use of renewable resources, would be a more effective solution to our energy problems.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of the most important regions on the planet for conserving biological diversity. I share your concern regarding the environment and remain committed to taking steps to conserving and maintaining our nation's precious resources.

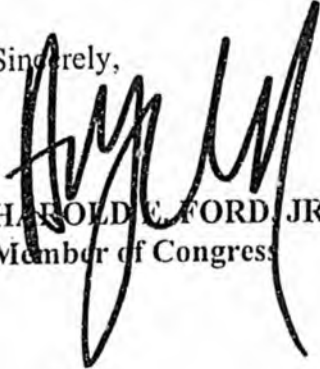
Page 2

Letter to: Ms. Fran Ulmer

May 1, 2001

Thank you for your interest in this crucial environmental issue and for taking the time to share your views. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance regarding this or any other issue that may concern you.

Sincerely,



HAROLD C. FORD, JR.
Member of Congress

E. BENJAMIN NELSON
NEBRASKA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2706

May 3, 2001

OFFICE OF THE
MAY 16 2001
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer
State of Alaska
Post Office Box 110015
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Lt. Governor Ulmer:

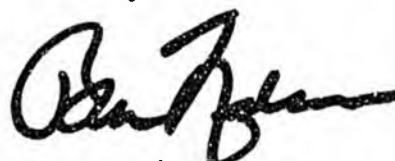
Thank you for forwarding CSHJR 7(RES), the State of Alaska's resolution on oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I appreciate knowing the Legislature's position on this important issue.

I believe we need to implement a comprehensive national energy policy that reduces our dependence on foreign oil and emphasizes conservation and efficiency.

While I have not made a final decision regarding the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, I have some deep concerns about opening it up for drilling. ANWR is one of our nation's largest, and last, pristine wilderness areas. We must weigh the risks against the benefits very carefully. Knowing the Legislature's position will help me in my decision making process.

Thank you again for writing. Your letter is appreciated.

Sincerely,



E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator

EBN:sg

TED STEVENS ALASKA CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025

OFFICE OF THE

MAY 18 2001

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 9, 2001

The Honorable Fran Ulmer
Lieutenant Governor
State of Alaska
State Capitol
P.O. Box 110015
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0015

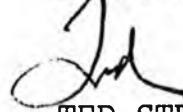
Dear Fran:

Thanks for sending me a copy of CSHJR 7 (RES)am relating to the proposed leasing of parts of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Frank, Don and I continue to work hard to inform our fellow colleagues that leasing sections of the Coastal Plain is indeed in our best interests. I look forward to continuing this work with my colleagues here in Washington, the Knowles Administration and the Alaska State Legislature.

With best wishes,

Cordially,



TED STEVENS