

HJR

18

Alaska House of Representatives

Session: Jan. – Apr.
State Capitol Building
Room 412
Juneau, AK 99801
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Interim: May – Dec.
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Representative Charisse Millett District 30

February 11, 2009
Bill Version: 26-LS0403VA

House Joint Resolution 18 Sponsor Statement

House Joint Resolution 18 urges the United States Congress to reject any legislation seeking a wilderness designation for the 1002 Area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Legislation has been introduced in Congress to do just that. The 1002 Area could be the largest untapped onshore oil prospect in the United States and that makes it both a national refuge and a strategic resource. The two are not incompatible.

Congress deliberately set aside the 1002 Area for future oil and gas exploration. Lawmakers at the time understood the day may come when those reserves will be needed to fuel the economy and reduce the flow of imported oil into America.

Alaska needs new jobs to grow its economy and new revenue to fund basic services like education, public safety and transportation infrastructure. America needs a stable, safe and secure supply of energy to help the economy get back on its feet. ANWR can do all of that without harming the fragile arctic environment.

Locking up a two thousand acre area that makes up less than one percent of the refuge and holds an estimated 10,400,000,000 barrels of oil does not make sense for America's economy and national security.

HJR 18 has been referred to the House Resources Committee. For more information, contact Representative Millett at (907) 465-3879.

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HR 39 IH

HJR 18

111th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 39

To preserve the Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, as wilderness in recognition of its extraordinary natural ecosystems and for the permanent good of present and future generations of Americans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**January 6, 2009**

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To preserve the Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, as wilderness in recognition of its extraordinary natural ecosystems and for the permanent good of present and future generations of Americans.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act'.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF POLICY.

(a) Findings- The Congress finds the following:

- (1) Americans cherish the continued existence of expansive, unspoiled wilderness ecosystems and wildlife found on their public lands, and feel a strong moral responsibility to protect this wilderness heritage as an enduring resource to bequeath undisturbed to future generations of Americans.
- (2) It is widely believed by ecologists, wildlife scientists, public land specialists, and other experts that the wilderness ecosystem centered around and dependent upon the Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, represents the very epitome of a primeval wilderness ecosystem and constitutes the greatest wilderness area and diversity of wildlife habitats of its kind in the United States.
- (3) President Dwight D. Eisenhower initiated protection of the wilderness values of the Arctic coastal plain in 1960 with ^[+] _{FEEDBACK} set aside 8,900,000 acres establishing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge expressly 'for the purpose of preserving unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values'.
- (4) In 1980, when the Congress acted to strengthen the protective management of the Eisenhower-designated area with the enactment of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 96-487), Representative Morris K. Udall led the effort to more than double the size of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and extend statutory wilderness protection to most of the original area.
- (5) Before the enactment of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the House of Representatives twice passed legislation that would have protected the entire Eisenhower-designated area as wilderness, including the Arctic coastal plain.
- (6) A majority of Americans have supported and continue to support preserving and protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, including the Arctic coastal plain, from any industrial development and consider oil and gas exploration and development in particular to be incompatible with the purposes for which this incomparable wilderness ecosystem has been set aside.
- (7) When the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1980 by paragraph (2) of section 303 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 96-487; 94 Stat. 2390; 16 U.S.C. 668dd note), subparagraph (B)(iii) of such paragraph specifically stated that one of the purposes for which the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is established and managed would be to provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses by local residents, and, therefore, the lands designated as wilderness within the Refuge, including the area designated by this Act, are and will continue to be managed consistent with such subparagraph.
- (8) Canada has taken action to preserve those portions of the wilderness ecosystem of the Arctic that exist on its side of the international border and provides strong legal protection for the habitat of the Porcupine River caribou herd that migrates annually through both countries to calve on the Arctic coastal plain.
- (9) The extension of full wilderness protection for the Arctic coastal plain within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will still leave most of the North Slope of Alaska available for the development of energy resources, which will allow Alaska to continue to contribute significantly to meeting the energy needs of the United States without despoiling the unique Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

(b) Statement of Policy- The Congress hereby declares that it is the policy of the United States--

(1) to honor the decades of bipartisan efforts that have increasingly protected the great wilderness ecosystem of the Arctic coastal plain;

(2) to sustain this natural treasure for the current generation of Americans; and

(3) to do everything possible to protect and preserve this magnificent natural ecosystem so that it may be bequeathed in its unspoiled natural condition to future generations of Americans.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL WILDERNESS, ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, ALASKA.

(a) Inclusion of Arctic Coastal Plain- In furtherance of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), an area within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the State of Alaska comprising approximately 1,559,538 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled 'Arctic National Wildlife Refuge--1002 Area Alternative E--Wilderness Designation' and dated October 28, 1991, is hereby designated as wilderness and, therefore, as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The map referred to in this subsection shall be available for inspection in the offices of the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) Administration- The Secretary of the Interior shall administer the area designated as wilderness by subsection (a) in accordance with the Wilderness Act as part of the wilderness area already in existence within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

END

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S 231 IS

HJR 18

111th CONGRESS

1st Session

S. 231

To designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES**January 14, 2009**

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KOHL, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DODD, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. KERRY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,***SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF PORTION OF ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AS WILDERNESS.**

Section 4 of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd) is amended by adding at the end the following:

' (p) Designation of Certain Land as Wilderness- Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska comprising approximately 1,559,538 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled 'Arctic National Wildlife Refuge--1002 Area. Alternative E--Wilderness Designation, October 28, 1991' and available for inspection in the offices of the Secretary, is designated as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System under the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).'

END



February 12, 2009

Representative Charisse Millett
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Room 412
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Millet:

I am writing to extend my sincerest appreciation for your leadership on HJR 18, urging the United States Congress to keep the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge open for future oil and gas development.

As you may know, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation owns subsurface title to 92,000 acres inside the Coastal Plain of ANWR, and our sister village corporation, Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation (KIC), owns the surface title to the same acreage.

ASRC in partnership with KIC have worked this issue for over two decades. We have an up close and personal interest in this debate because potential development or Wilderness designation will have a direct impact on the residents of Kaktovik and those of the North Slope.

I am extending ASRC's assistance in providing your office with additional information on this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you, again, for your leadership on the ANWR issue.

Regards,
ARCTIC SLOPE REGIONAL CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tara M. Sweeney', is written over the typed name.

Tara M. Sweeney
Vice President of External Affairs and Communications

Cc: Philip Tikluk, President of Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation



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February 20, 2009

Representative Craig Johnson and Representative Mark Neuman, Co-Chairmen
House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HJR18, Urging the U.S. Congress to refrain from passing legislation that designates lands in Area 1002 of ANWR as Wilderness

Dear Representative Johnson and Representative Neuman:

On behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc., (RDC), I am writing in support of HJR18, which urges Congress to refrain from passing legislation that designates the 1002 Area of ANWR as Wilderness.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

A Wilderness designation would preclude future action by Congress to provide for environmentally responsible exploration and production of oil and gas resources in ANWR. Federal Wilderness should not be expanded to include the 1002 Area, given the Coastal Plain is considered the nation's most promising onshore oil and gas prospect.

We encourage the Committee to vote in favor of this resolution. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Brune
Executive Director