

HJR

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER

Sponsor Statement

House Joint Resolution 4 – Relating to OCS Revenue Sharing

House Joint Resolution 4 urges the United States Congress to extend outer continental shelf (OCS) revenue sharing to all coastal states, including Alaska, where OCS oil and gas development could occur.

Currently, the federal government shares with states 50 percent of all revenue collected from oil and gas development on federal onshore lands, 27 percent of all revenue collected from oil and gas development on federal near-shore (within three miles of the coastline) leases, and 37.5 percent of all revenue collected from oil and gas development on federal offshore leases in OCS areas of Gulf Coast states only. There is currently no provision for federal OCS revenue sharing in Alaska, which has more coastline, more rural communities, and less infrastructure than any other state.

Oil and gas development in federal areas – regardless of whether it is onshore, near-shore, or offshore – requires additional investment in state infrastructure and increases demand on state and local government resources. OCS revenue sharing would help provide funding for Alaska to build infrastructure such as marine ports, airports, utilities, and housing and enhance critical state services such as oil spill and emergency response and environmental monitoring and mitigation.

At a time when federal OCS policies are in flux – with proposals to expand OCS offerings in the Atlantic coast, and to cut off OCS offerings in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas – it is imperative for Alaska to reassert its case for a fair apportionment of OCS revenues.

I urge you to join me in sending a strong message to Congress in support of federal revenue sharing for Alaska's OCS.