



Alaska State Legislature

1966

Source:

SJR 77

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JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to restoring Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 to the public domain.

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

WHEREAS our nation is consuming petroleum products at a rate which far exceeds the discovery of new sources within our national boundaries; and

WHEREAS the oil and gas industry is currently engaged in an active exploration program all along the arctic slope of North America; and

WHEREAS there is presently established Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 containing 23 million acres which is not open to exploration and development by private enterprise; and

WHEREAS private enterprise is ready, willing and able to undertake the development of new petroleum reserves in the national interest;

BE IT RESOLVED that Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 as established by Executive Order No. 3797-A dated February 27, 1923, as amended by Public Land Order 289 dated July 20, 1945, be abolished and terminated; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the lands encompassed in Petroleum Reserve No. 4 be restored to the public domain and that deposits of oil and gas underlying these be made subject to disposition by the Secretary of the Interior in the manner provided for by Act of Congress (41 Stat 437), as amended, or wholly by bid if so authorized by the Congress; provided that nothing shall affect the validity of any existing lease, license, permit, transfer or agreement, including the authority of the Secretary of the Navy under Public Law 87-599 (76 Stat 401) to develop the South Barrow gas field, and under Public Law 88-389 (78 Stat 340) to produce and sell crude oil from the Umiat field.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States; the Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey, Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate; the Honorable Paul H. Nitze, Secretary of the Navy; the Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior; and the Honorable E. L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Ralph J. Rivers, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.