

STATE OF ALASKA SENATE

2016

Source
SR 5

**Senate
Resolve No.**
6



Opposing the recent decisions of the Obama Administration to cancel future lease sales in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas; urging the United States Department of the Interior to continue including the Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea lease sales in the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program; and urging the Obama Administration to support ongoing efforts to develop offshore oil and gas in the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf responsibly and to acknowledge the support of Alaskans.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS the official Arctic policy of the state, passed by the Twenty-Ninth Alaska State Legislature, states that "It is the policy of the state, as it relates to the Arctic, to uphold the state's commitment to economically vibrant communities sustained by development activities consistent with the state's responsibility for a healthy environment"; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission advises the state, in its list of strategic recommendations, to "promote prudent oil and gas exploration and development in the Arctic"; and

WHEREAS the United States Bureau of Ocean Energy Management estimates that there are 23,000,000,000 barrels and 104,410,000,000,000 cubic feet of undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and natural gas in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas; and

WHEREAS hundreds of exploration and development wells have been safely and responsibly drilled in state and federal water off the coast of the state, including in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas; and

WHEREAS the economic future of the state and the energy security and strategic global position of the nation stand to benefit greatly from development of the state's outer continental shelf; and

WHEREAS the state has a rich history of developing its resources in a sustainable and responsible manner; and

WHEREAS development of the state's outer continental shelf is a well-understood undertaking, and Alaskans have the benefit of over half a century's experience in managing Arctic development; and

WHEREAS the Trans Alaska Pipeline System, a national strategic infrastructure asset, is running at one-quarter of throughput capacity and would benefit from additional future oil supply; and

WHEREAS Alaskans, including those living closest to the resource on the North Slope, benefit from outer continental shelf exploration through direct employment, business opportunities, and government revenue; and

WHEREAS there are many synergies between the types of infrastructure that would facilitate Arctic oil and gas exploration and development and the infrastructure needs of local communities, the state, and elements of the United States Coast Guard and Navy; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2015, the United States Department of the Interior published a draft 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program that proposed one lease sale each in the Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea Planning Areas; and

WHEREAS the federal government has limited immediate opportunities in several areas in the Arctic, including, most importantly, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska, and the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf; and

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2015, the United States Department of the Interior cancelled future outer continental shelf oil and gas lease sales in the Chukchi Sea Planning

Area and Beaufort Sea Planning Area, scheduled for 2016 and 2017, respectively;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Senate opposes the recent decisions of the Obama Administration to cancel future lease sales in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Senate urges the United States Department of the Interior to continue including the Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea lease sales in the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Senate urges the Obama Administration to support ongoing efforts to develop offshore oil and gas in the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf responsibly and to acknowledge the support of Alaskans.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; Brian Salerno, Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.