

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0001

Resolution in support of ANWR energy development.

Sponsored by: Joint Minerals, Business and Economic
Development Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to
2 pass legislation to open the coastal plain of the Arctic
3 National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration,
4 development and production.

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6 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Wyoming supports
7 the efforts of the State of Alaska to open a portion of the
8 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to energy exploration and
9 development; and

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11 WHEREAS, in 16 U.S.C. 3142 (sec. 1002 of the Alaska
12 National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)), the
13 United States Congress reserved the right to permit further
14 oil and gas exploration, development and production within
15 the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge;
16 and

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2 WHEREAS, the oil industry, the state of Alaska, and the
3 United States Department of the Interior consider the
4 coastal plain to have the highest potential for discovery
5 of very large oil and gas accumulations on the continent of
6 North America, estimated to be as much as ten billion four
7 hundred million (10,400,000,000) barrels of recoverable
8 oil; and

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

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17 WHEREAS, the nation's future energy independence would be
18 enhanced with additional natural gas production from the
19 North Slope of Alaska, including what is expected to be
20 significant gas reserves in the Arctic National Wildlife
21 Refuge, and the development of those reserves would enhance
22 the economic viability of the proposed Alaska Natural Gas
23 Pipeline; and

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1 WHEREAS, demand for domestic oil continues to rise while
2 domestic crude production continues to fall, with the
3 result that the United States imports additional oil from
4 foreign sources; and

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

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13 WHEREAS, Prudhoe Bay production is declining, and the
14 Trans-Alaska Pipeline System is operating at only one-third
15 (1/3) of its 1988 peak throughput; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, a transportation
18 facility that is a national asset and that would cost
19 billions of dollars to replace, would have its useful
20 physical life extended for a substantial period if the
21 additional reserves of recoverable oil from the coastal
22 plain were produced; and

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1 WHEREAS, while new oil field developments on the North
2 Slope of Alaska, such as Alpine, Northstar, Lisburne,
3 Ooguruk and West Sak, may temporarily slow the decline in
4 production, only giant coastal plain fields have the
5 theoretical capability of increasing the production volume
6 of Alaska oil to a significant degree; and

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8 WHEREAS, opening the coastal plain of the Arctic National
9 Wildlife Refuge now allows sufficient time for planning
10 environmental safeguards, development and national security
11 review; and

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13 WHEREAS, the one million five hundred thousand (1,500,000)
14 acre coastal plain of the refuge makes up only eight
15 percent (8%) of the nineteen million (19,000,000) acre
16 refuge, and the development of the oil and gas reserves in
17 the refuge's coastal plain would affect an area of two
18 thousand (2,000) acres or less, which is less than one-half
19 of one percent (0.5%) of the area of the coastal plain; and

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21 WHEREAS, eight million nine hundred thousand (8,900,000) of
22 the nineteen million (19,000,000) acres of the refuge have
23 already been set aside as wilderness; and

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1 WHEREAS, the oil industry has shown at Prudhoe Bay, as well
2 as at other locations along the Arctic coastal plain, that
3 it is capable of conducting oil and gas activity without
4 adversely affecting the environment or wildlife
5 populations; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Central Arctic Caribou herd has increased from
8 five thousand (5,000) animals in 1975 to over sixty-six
9 thousand (66,000) animals in recent years, despite oil
10 exploration, development and production at Prudhoe Bay and
11 Kuparuk; and

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13 WHEREAS, the state of Alaska is committed to ensuring the
14 continued health and productivity of the Porcupine Caribou
15 herd and the Central Arctic Caribou herd, and the
16 protection of land, water and other wildlife resources
17 during the exploration and development of the coastal plain
18 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

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20 WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry is developing directional
21 drilling technology that will allow horizontal drilling in
22 a responsible manner thereby minimizing the development
23 footprint within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and
24 this directional drilling technology may be capable of

1 drilling from outside of the boundaries of the 1002 study
2 area; and

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

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11 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*
12 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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14 **Section 1.** That the Legislature of the State of
15 Wyoming supports the State of Alaska in urging the United
16 States Congress to pass legislation to open the coastal
17 plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas
18 exploration, development and production, and that the
19 Wyoming State Legislature is adamantly opposed to further
20 wilderness or other restrictive designation in the area of
21 the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

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23 **Section 2.** That the Legislature of the State of
24 Wyoming supports the State of Alaska in urging that energy

1 exploration and production activities be conducted in a
2 manner that protects the environment and the naturally
3 occurring population levels of the Porcupine Caribou herd
4 and the Central Arctic Caribou herd on which the Gwich'in
5 and other local residents depend, that uses directional
6 drilling and other advances in technology to minimize the
7 development footprint in the 1002 study area.

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9 **Section 3.** That the Legislature of the State of
10 Wyoming supports the State of Alaska in opposing any
11 unilateral reduction in royalty revenue from exploration
12 and development of the coastal plain of the Arctic National
13 Wildlife Refuge and any attempt to coerce the State of
14 Alaska into accepting less than the ninety percent (90%) of
15 the oil, gas and mineral royalties from the federal land in
16 Alaska that was promised to the State of Alaska at
17 statehood.

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1 **Section 4.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
2 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the
3 United States, to the President of the Senate and the
4 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United
5 States Congress, to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation
6 and to the Senate President and to the Speaker of the House
7 of the Alaska State Legislature.

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(END)