

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 34

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES PATKOTAK, Rasmussen, Thompson, Cronk

Introduced: 2/22/22
Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting oil and gas leasing and development within the National Petroleum Reserve**
2 **in Alaska.**

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

4 **WHEREAS**, in 1923, President Warren G. Harding issued an Executive Order
5 establishing Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 on the North Slope region to provide a potential
6 supply of oil for the United States Navy; and

7 **WHEREAS** 42 U.S.C. 6501 (Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976)
8 redesignated Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 as the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska
9 and transferred responsibility for its administration to the Secretary of the Interior; and

10 **WHEREAS** the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska encompasses 23,500,000
11 acres, with boundaries extending south from Icy Cape to the drainage divide of the Brooks
12 Range, then following the divide eastward to 156 degrees west longitude, then north to the
13 Colville River, and following the Colville River downstream to its mouth; and

14 **WHEREAS** the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska falls entirely within the
15 boundary of the North Slope Borough and includes the communities of Atkasuk, Nuiqsut,
16 Utqiagvik, and Wainwright; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2017, the United States Geological Survey estimated there to be
2 8,700,000,000 barrels of recoverable oil and 25,000,000,000 cubic feet of recoverable gas
3 reserves in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

4 **WHEREAS** the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan
5 and Environmental Impact Statement estimates potential annual government revenue,
6 including local, state, and federal taxes and royalties, of \$730,000,000 to \$4,750,000,000 from
7 oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

8 **WHEREAS** the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan
9 and Environmental Impact Statement estimates that the exploration, development, and
10 production of oil and gas in the Reserve could generate 3,600 direct jobs and 2,750 indirect
11 jobs annually over a period of 30 years; and

12 **WHEREAS** state royalties from oil and gas development in the National Petroleum
13 Reserve in Alaska are allocated to the NPR-A Impact Mitigation Fund, which is used to
14 provide the local communities of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, Wainwright, Utqiagvik,
15 and the North Slope Borough with grants to mitigate impacts related to oil and gas
16 development; and

17 **WHEREAS**, in January of 2022, the Department of the Interior took action that would
18 effectively revert management of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the 2013
19 Integrated Activity Plan, removing 7,000,000 acres of the National Petroleum Reserve in
20 Alaska from potential oil and gas development; and

21 **WHEREAS** the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan
22 was developed in partnership with the North Slope Borough and in consultation with North
23 Slope tribes and Alaska Native corporations and it included provisions that would have
24 ensured future economic development opportunities for the North Slope region, allowed for
25 community infrastructure needs to be considered in the National Petroleum Reserve in
26 Alaska, and required that areas identified by local and Alaska Native entities be excluded
27 from future leasing; and

28 **WHEREAS** the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, the Inupiat Community of the
29 Arctic Slope, and the North Slope Borough are all united in opposition to the Department of
30 the Interior's reversion from the 2020 NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan to the 2013 NPR-A
31 Integrated Activity Plan and have expressed concern that this reversion diminishes Alaska

1 Native self-determination by ignoring the needs, concerns, and input of the local people who
2 live, work, and subsist in and around the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

3 **WHEREAS** oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska has
4 the potential to extend the life of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System and increase throughput,
5 which has declined from a peak of 2,033,000 average barrels of oil a day in 1988 to 477,800
6 average barrels of oil a day in 2021; and

7 **WHEREAS** the failure of the Department of the Interior to consult with the Inupiat
8 Community of the Arctic Slope and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation before taking
9 sweeping action violates Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination with Indian
10 Tribal Governments; and

11 **WHEREAS** oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska
12 would strengthen national security and provide long-lasting benefits to the national economy
13 by creating thousands of jobs nationwide, generating billions of dollars in government
14 revenue, providing affordable energy to American consumers, and decreasing dependence on
15 foreign energy; and

16 **WHEREAS** safe and responsible oil and gas exploration, development, and
17 production has been demonstrated by over 50 years of activity on the North Slope region
18 without adverse effects on the environment or wildlife populations;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
20 Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, to maximize the area available for
21 oil and gas leasing and development within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska while
22 conserving and protecting valued fish, wildlife, subsistence, and cultural resources; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
24 Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, when considering management
25 activities related to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, to take into account the long
26 history of safe and responsible oil and gas development on the North Slope region and the
27 enormous benefits development of oil and gas resources in the National Petroleum Reserve in
28 Alaska would bring to local communities, tribal governments, the state, and the nation.

29 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President
30 of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and
31 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Deb Haaland, United States Secretary of the

1 Interior; the Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management, U.S.
2 Department of the Interior; Thomas Heinlein, Acting Alaska State Director, Bureau of Land
3 Management, U.S. Department of the Interior; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
4 Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
5 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.