

**HOUSE CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7(RES)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 3/11/19**

**Referred: Today's Calendar**

**Sponsor(s): SENATORS BIRCH, Bishop, Hughes, von Imhof, Micciche, Stedman, Hoffman, Costello, Coghill, Shower, Giessel**

**REPRESENTATIVES Rauscher, Tuck, Kopp, Wilson, Johnston, Sullivan-Leonard, Johnson**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Requesting that the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land**  
2 **Management implement an oil and gas leasing program in the coastal plain of the Arctic**  
3 **National Wildlife Refuge.**

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

5 **WHEREAS**, in 16 U.S.C. 3143 (sec. 1003 of the Alaska National Interest Lands  
6 Conservation Act), the United States Congress reserved the right to permit oil and gas  
7 development and production in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in 16 U.S.C. 3142 (sec. 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands  
9 Conservation Act), the United States Congress authorized nondrilling exploratory activity in  
10 the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

11 **WHEREAS** sec. 20001 of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-97) requires  
12 the United States Secretary of the Interior to establish and administer a competitive oil and  
13 gas program for the leasing, development, and production of oil and gas in and the  
14 transportation of oil and gas from the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge;  
15 and

16 **WHEREAS** sec. 20001 of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-97) requires  
17 that at least two lease sales be held by December 22, 2024, and that each sale offer for lease at  
18 least 400,000 acres of land with the highest hydrocarbon potential in the coastal plain of the

1 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, allowing for up to 2,000 acres of federal land which is  
2 equivalent to .01 percent of the 19,300,000-acre refuge, to be covered by production and  
3 support facilities; and

4 **WHEREAS** the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge contains an  
5 estimated 7,687,000,000 barrels of recoverable oil and 7,000,000,000,000 cubic feet of  
6 natural gas; and

7 **WHEREAS** the exploration, development, and production of oil and gas in the coastal  
8 plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is predicted to generate 1,430 direct jobs and  
9 6,350 indirect jobs annually and 2,480 direct jobs and 10,100 indirect jobs at peak  
10 employment; and

11 **WHEREAS** the estimated potential government revenue from petroleum development  
12 in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge through 2050, including revenue to  
13 the North Slope Borough, the state, and the federal government from royalties, income taxes,  
14 production taxes, and property taxes, equals \$104,673,000,000; and

15 **WHEREAS** oil and gas development in the coastal plain of the Arctic National  
16 Wildlife Refuge has the potential to extend the life of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System and  
17 increase throughput, which has declined from a peak of 2,033,000 average barrels of oil a day  
18 in 1988 to 509,000 average barrels of oil a day in 2018; and

19 **WHEREAS** oil and gas development in the coastal plain of the Arctic National  
20 Wildlife Refuge has the potential to enhance the economic viability of the proposed Alaska  
21 liquefied natural gas project; and

22 **WHEREAS** oil and gas development on the coastal plain would strengthen national  
23 security and provide long-lasting benefits to the national economy by creating thousands of  
24 jobs nationwide, generating billions of dollars in government revenue, providing affordable  
25 energy to American consumers, and decreasing dependence on foreign energy; and

26 **WHEREAS** advances in extended-reach and directional drilling technology have  
27 greatly reduced the impact area of oil and gas activities, including shrinking the average  
28 drilling pad size by more than 80 percent, from 65 acres in 1970 to 12 acres today, and  
29 increasing the subsurface area accessible from modern drilling pads by nearly 2,000 percent,  
30 from three square miles in 1970 to 60 square miles today; and

31 **WHEREAS** safe and responsible oil and gas exploration, development, and

1 production has been demonstrated by over 50 years of activity on the North Slope of Alaska  
2 without adverse effects on the environment or wildlife populations; and

3 **WHEREAS** the state continues to strive to ensure the ongoing health and productivity  
4 of the Porcupine and Central Arctic caribou herds and the protection of land, water, and  
5 wildlife resources during the exploration and development of the coastal plain of the Arctic  
6 National Wildlife Refuge; and

7 **WHEREAS** polling consistently shows Alaskans overwhelmingly support responsible  
8 oil and gas development in the non-wilderness portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge;  
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, while most Alaskans support development in the coastal plain of the  
11 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, many do so with the understanding that the state's workforce  
12 will be used to the maximum extent possible if the leasing program moves forward; and

13 **WHEREAS** the proposed leasing area of the coastal plain of the Arctic National  
14 Wildlife Refuge is located in the North Slope Borough, and many residents of the borough,  
15 the population of which is predominantly Inupiat, are supportive of development in the non-  
16 wilderness area of the coastal plain;

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests that the United States  
18 Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, implement an oil and gas leasing  
19 program in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as outlined in the  
20 December 2018 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Draft Environmental Impact  
21 Statement; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests that the United  
23 States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, in its consideration of action  
24 alternatives outlined in the December 2018 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Draft  
25 Environmental Impact Statement, take into account the long history of safe and responsible  
26 oil and gas development on Alaska's North Slope, the enormous benefits development of oil  
27 and gas resources in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would bring to  
28 the state and the nation, the advances in oilfield technology that continue to shrink the impact  
29 area of oil and gas activities, and the support of residents from the North Slope Borough and  
30 across the North Slope of Alaska for oil and gas development in a portion of the coastal plain.

31 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President

1 of the United States; the Honorable Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the United States and  
2 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable David Bernhardt, Acting United States Secretary  
3 of the Interior; Brian Steed, Deputy Director for Policy and Programs, Bureau of Land  
4 Management, U.S. Department of the Interior; and Nicole Hayes, Coastal Plain Project  
5 Manager, Bureau of Land Management Alaska State Office, U.S. Department of the Interior.