



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Sponsor Statement

Senate Joint Resolution 7: Endorsing ANWR Leasing

In 1980, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act established the current boundaries of the 19-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. ANILCA further designated 1.5 million acres of the ANWR coastal plain (known as the "10-02 Area") for oil and gas exploration and development and gave Congress the authority to approve or deny development in the Refuge.

Since the passage of ANILCA nearly 40 years ago, the Alaska Legislature has continually urged Congress to allow exploration and development in this promising basin, which contains an estimated 7.7 billion barrels of oil and 7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

With the passage of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Congress finally granted that approval and directed the Secretary of the Interior to establish and administer a competitive oil and gas leasing program for the 1002 Area.

In preparation for that lease sale, the Bureau of Land Management published the 2018 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on December 20th, 2018. Public comment on this DEIS is open until March 13, 2019, after which BLM will prepare a final environmental impact statement and issue a record of decision on how to conduct the leasing program.

Continued progress on an ANWR coastal plain leasing program is critically important to Alaska's future economy. Development of the ANWR coastal plain has the potential to

- Generate over \$100 billion in state, federal, and local government revenues
- Create over 12,500 direct and indirect jobs at peak employment
- Increase throughput and extend the life of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System and enhance the economics of the AKLNG project
- Strengthen national security, bolster the US economy, and provide affordable energy to US consumers

Senate Joint Resolution 7 urges the Department of the Interior to stay the course in implementing an ANWR coastal plain oil and gas leasing program and serves as the 31st Legislature's official comment on the 2018 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement.