

First Special Session of 1987

By: Joint Committee on Energy

S.C.R. 2

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE MEMBERS OF ARKANSAS' CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESOURCES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COASTAL PLAIN AND THAT THE MEMBERS ALSO REJECT PROPOSALS PROVIDING FOR MORATORIA OR PERMANENT BANS ON OIL AND NATURAL GAS LEASING.

WHEREAS, Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge includes more than 19 million acres of land, amounting to approximately five percent of the entire state landmass; and

WHEREAS, the Coastal Plain is approximately eight percent of the Refuge and is considered to be highly prospective for the discovery of large quantities of oil and gas; and

WHEREAS, less than one-tenth of one percent of the total Arctic National Wildlife Refuge area would be affected should development occur; and

WHEREAS, development of the Alaskan North Slope oil fields has clearly demonstrated that petroleum operations are compatible with the Alaskan Arctic environment and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Congress can and should provide the authority to the Department of Interior to oversee exploration and development of the Coastal Plain resources consistent with the standards proven during previous North Slope activity; and

WHEREAS, national energy security depends on the development of domestic oil and gas resources to replace depleted reserves of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States must prepare to develop domestic petroleum resources, if it is to preclude overwhelming dependence on foreign petroleum sources in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, the Nation stands to derive revenues including portions of bonuses, royalties and rents from oil and gas development; and

WHEREAS, the petroleum industry has consistently demonstrated its ability to operate in conditions similar to those found on the Coastal Plain in a safe, responsible manner without significant adverse environmental impacts.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT upon motion of the Joint Committee on Energy, the members of the Seventy-Sixth General Assembly strongly urge the members of Arkansas' Congressional Delegation to support environmentally sound development of the resources of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain to provide for future U. S. energy needs and to reduce the dangerous overdependence on foreign sources of oil.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

THAT the members of Arkansas' Congressional Delegation also reject proposals providing for moratoria or permanent bans on oil and natural gas leasing on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National wildlife Refuge.

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