
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROTECT WILDLIFE AND WILDERNESS BY OPPOSING OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF AND SUPPORTING CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY ALTERNATIVES.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Congress established the Arctic
2 National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) to conserve Alaska's natural
3 diversity of fish and wildlife populations and their habitats,
4 to provide for subsistence uses, to ensure water quality and
5 necessary quantity within the Refuge, and to fulfill
6 international treaty obligations; and

7 WHEREAS, the coastal plain of the Refuge, where oil
8 drilling is proposed, is home to large concentrations of
9 wildlife in the Refuge, including 135 species of migratory
10 birds, polar bears, musk oxen, and the migratory porcupine
11 caribou herd, which returns to the Refuge coastal plain during
12 calving and post-calving season; and

13 WHEREAS, oil development proposed in the Refuge coastal
14 plain is predicted by scientists to reduce the porcupine caribou
15 herd, a vital resource of this fragile ecosystem already
16 impacted by climate change; and

17 WHEREAS, the Outer Continental Shelf (Shelf) is a shallow
18 segment of land just beyond the beaches of the continental
19 United States that slopes for many miles before dropping steeply
20 to the seabed and extends to the seaward extent of the state and
21 federal jurisdictions; and

22
23 WHEREAS, in these coastal areas, from the icy Alaskan
24 waters to the coral reefs off the Florida Keys, thousands of
25 plant and animal species thrive; and



1
2 WHEREAS, in response to damaging drilling practices and oil
3 spills in the fragile ecosystem of the Shelf, in the early 1980s
4 the United States Congress established a moratorium on oil and
5 gas exploration and development on the Shelf; and
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7 WHEREAS, in ensuing years actions by Congress and executive
8 administrations have eroded the protections provided by the
9 moratorium by allowing limited leasing of Shelf areas for oil
10 and gas exploration and development and authorizing an inventory
11 of all Shelf areas for potential fossil fuel exploration and
12 development; and

13 WHEREAS, according to a National Academy of Sciences study
14 commissioned by Congress, oil and gas development in Northern
15 Alaska has already affected the land, wildlife, and subsistence
16 lifestyles for this region, and new Shelf oil and gas leasing
17 and development in bowhead whale migration areas pose even
18 graver risks due to the difficulties in cleaning up oil spills
19 among ice packs; and

20 WHEREAS, oil development in the Refuge and on the Shelf
21 perpetuates an unsustainable national energy policy contributing
22 to global warming, which can raise sea levels and increase storm
23 frequency and intensity; now, therefore,
24

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
27 of 2009, that the United States Congress is respectfully urged
28 to oppose oil and gas exploration and development in the Arctic
29 National Wildlife Refuge and on the Outer Continental Shelf and
30 to support clean, renewable energy alternatives; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
34 the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of



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1 Representatives, the President and Minority Leader of the United
 2 States Senate, and the members of Hawaii's Congressional
 3 delegation.
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OFFERED BY:

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FEB 10 2009

