
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PREVENTION OF THE SALE OF OIL AND GAS LEASES AND OF
DRILLING IN THE CHUKCHI AND BEAUFORT SEA REGIONS OF ALASKA.

1 WHEREAS, the United States' continued reliance on fossil
2 fuels, inability to enact meaningful increases in mandatory
3 vehicle fuel mileage, and failure to utilize alternative energy
4 resources have formed the basis of the current presidential
5 administration's rationalization to sell oil and gas leases and
6 allow oil and gas drilling in the Chukchi and Beaufort Sea
7 regions of Alaska; and

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9 WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior,
10 Minerals Management Service, has announced that it will sell oil
11 and gas leases on nearly thirty million acres in the Chukchi Sea
12 region; and

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14 WHEREAS, the areas proposed to be leased include habitats
15 for polar bears and other Arctic wildlife; and

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17 WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior, Fish
18 and Wildlife Service, has postponed a long-awaited decision on
19 whether to place the polar bear on the list of threatened
20 species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and

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22 WHEREAS, polar bear populations in Alaska are already in
23 danger from decreasing sea ice due to global warming, and an
24 invasion of their habitat by oil drilling operations would
25 further jeopardize these animals; and

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27 WHEREAS, native Alaskan and environmental groups have
28 expressed opposition to oil and gas drilling in the Chukchi Sea
29 and Beaufort Sea regions due to dangers to the environment,
30 including potential oil spills and detrimental impacts of
31 seismic testing on marine life; and

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33 WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior
34 failed to fully assess the potential impacts that oil



1 exploration and drilling would have on polar bear, Pacific
2 walrus, and other indigenous animal populations; now, therefore,
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
6 Session of 2008, that the President of the United States, the
7 United States House of Representatives, the United States
8 Senate, and the United States Department of the Interior are
9 urged to prevent oil and gas drilling in the Chukchi Sea region
10 of Alaska; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United
13 States, the United States House of Representatives, the United
14 States Senate, and the United States Department of the Interior
15 are urged to refrain from the sale of any oil and gas leases in
16 Lease Sale 193 Area of the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf Region
17 and to prohibit oil and gas drilling in the Chukchi Sea and
18 Beaufort Sea regions of Alaska until there is a determination by
19 the Secretary of the Interior as to whether to list the polar
20 bear as an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered
21 Species Act of 1973; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's delegation to the
24 Congress of the United States is urged to support legislation
25 such as Senate Bill 2568, Senate Joint Resolution 17, and House
26 Resolution 5058 to prevent leasing of lands in the Chukchi Sea
27 and Beaufort Sea regions of Alaska for oil and gas drilling and
28 prohibit the sale of any oil or gas lease for any tract in Lease
29 Sale 193 Area of the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf Region; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
33 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
34 the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the
35 Interior, and members of Hawaii's delegation to the Congress of
36 the United States.
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