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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS 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 one hundred thirty-five  
10 species of migratory birds, and also polar bears, musk oxen, and  
11 the migratory porcupine caribou herd, which returns to the  
12 Refuge coastal plain during 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  
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1 WHEREAS, in response to damaging drilling practices and oil  
2 spills in the fragile ecosystem of the Shelf, in the early 1980s  
3 the United States Congress established a moratorium on oil and  
4 gas exploration and development on the Shelf; and

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6 WHEREAS, in ensuing years, actions by Congress and  
7 executive administrations have eroded the protections provided  
8 by the moratorium by allowing limited leasing of Shelf areas for  
9 oil and gas exploration and development, and authorizing an  
10 inventory of all Shelf areas for potential fossil fuel  
11 exploration and development; and

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

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

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
25 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
26 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the United States Congress  
27 is respectfully urged to oppose oil and gas exploration and  
28 development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and on the  
29 Outer Continental Shelf and to support clean, renewable energy  
30 alternatives; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
34 United States, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United  
35 States House of Representatives, the President, the Majority  
36 Leader, and the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and  
37 the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.