

**Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Wednesday, January 3, 2007**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3023
(Representatives Wald, Carlson, Kemperich, Skarphol)
(Senators Lyson, Wardner)

A concurrent resolution urging the President of the United States and Congress to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration and development.

WHEREAS, the oil and natural gas industry is a vital part of the United States' economy for the foreseeable future with increased oil production needed to fuel the nation's transportation system; and

WHEREAS, increasing domestic energy production and reducing dependence on foreign supplies are in the best interests of our nation's strategic and economic well-being as high energy prices impact the nation's farmers, businesses, and the consuming public; and

WHEREAS, the United States currently imports 65 percent of the petroleum it needs at a cost of more than \$160 billion a year; and

WHEREAS, the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is America's best possibility for the discovery of another onshore giant "Prudhoe Bay-sized" oil and gas field in North America, with an estimated 9 billion to 16 billion barrels of recoverable oil; and

WHEREAS, advanced technology has greatly reduced the "footprint" needed for Arctic oil development by approximately 64 percent; and

WHEREAS, only the 1.5 million acre coastal plain, 8 percent of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, is being considered for development and less than 2,000 acres of the 1.5 million acres will be affected by surface development activities while the remaining 17.5 million acres or 92 percent of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will remain permanently closed to any kind of development as federally designated wilderness; and

WHEREAS, revenues to the federal treasury will be enhanced by billions of dollars from bonus bids, lease rentals, royalties, and taxes attributable to development within the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of economic activity in every state in the Union will be created by development within the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS, the north slope oil fields currently provide the United States with approximately 20 percent of its domestic production, but since 1988 this production has been on the decline, and the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline currently operates each day at less than half of its designed capacity; and

WHEREAS, government studies suggest that new production from the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge could produce a 10-year sustained rate of 1 million barrels of oil per day, supplying over 35 percent of the nation's domestic output, with production likely to continue for more than 25 years; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas development and wildlife are successfully coexisting in Alaska's Arctic, with the central arctic caribou herd at Prudhoe Bay growing from 3,000 head to as high as 31,857 head during the last 25 years of operations; and

WHEREAS, more than 75 percent of Alaskans, including a majority of the residents of Kakovik, the only Inupiat Village on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, favor exploration and production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the President of the United States and Congress to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration and development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2007,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State