

**CITY OF WASILLA
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 01-11**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE WASILLA OF CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF OPENING
THE COASTAL PLAIN OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (ANWR) TO
RESPONSIBLE EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF ANY
EXISTING OIL AND GAS RESOURCES.**

WHEREAS, the oil & gas industry, the largest employer in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, is of critical importance to the security and prosperity of Wasilla's economy; and

WHEREAS, the United States currently relies on imported oil to supply over 55 percent of its emerging consumption; and

WHEREAS, the latest projections indicate that by 2020 the United States will need to import 64 percent of its oil to satisfy it's industrial and residential needs; and

WHEREAS, it would take 10,000 dockings of foreign supertankers, carrying 500,000 barrels of oil each, to provide the nation's oil needs in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the United States currently receives 44 percent of its imported oil from countries involved in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), including 1,400,000 barrels a day from Saudi Arabia and 700,000 a day from Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Iraq has become the fastest source of United States oil imports; and

WHEREAS, the United State is spending \$300,000,000 a day on foreign oil, accounting for one-third of our entire trade deficit; and

WHEREAS, while seeking commercial and residential energy efficiencies, and development of alternative energy from biomass, wind, geothermal, solar, hydro, power-cells, etc. is extremely important, it remains essential that a more immediate comprehensive national energy plan include exploration and continued development of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, reduction of dependence upon foreign oil requires increasing domestic production; and

WHEREAS, Prudhoe Bay production is declining annually by approximately 10 percent; and

WHEREAS, the coastal plain of ANWR represents America's best possibility for discovery of large, new oil and gas deposits; and

WHEREAS, in section 1002 of the Alaska Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), the United States Congress reserved the right to permit oil and gas exploration, development and production within the ANWR coastal plain of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, a three-year study by the United States Geological Survey estimated the recoverable oil potential of the ANWR coastal plain to be as high as 16,000,000,000 barrels of oil, which could replace Saudi oil imports to the United States for 30 years; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas exploration and development on the ANWR coastal plain could result in major discoveries that could reduce our nation's dependence on imported supplies, help balance our nation's trade deficit and significantly increase the nation's security; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of Alaskans, including native residents of Kaktovik, the only community located within ANWR, support coastal plain development; and

WHEREAS, the 1,500,000 acre coastal plain comprises only eight percent of ANWRs 19,000,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, 8,000,000 of the 19,000,000 acres of ANWR have already been set aside as wilderness; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska will ensure the continued health and productivity of its Porcupine Caribou herd and the protection of its land, water and other wildlife resources during exploration and development of the ANWR coastal plain; and

WHEREAS, the oil industry has developed and is using innovative world-leading technology and environmental practices in new field developments at Alpine and Northstar, and those techniques are directly applicable to operating on the ANWR coastal plain, and would enhance environmental protection beyond the traditionally high standards; and

WHEREAS, the projected economic benefits through job creation resulting from ANWR coastal plain oil and gas development would effect all 50 states, creating between 250,000 and 735,000 jobs nationwide.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Wasilla does hereby support the responsible and environmentally sound exploration, development and production of oil and gas resources in the coastal plain of ANWR.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Wasilla urges you the Congress of the United States to pass any and all legislation required to open the coastal plain of ANWR, Alaska, to oil and gas exploration, development and production.

ADOPTED by the Wasilla City Council on April 9, 2001.



SARAH PALIN, Mayor

ATTEST:



KRISTIE L. VANGORDER, CMC
City Clerk

[SEAL]