

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3023**

Introduced by

Representatives Wald, Carlson, Kempenich, Skarphol

Senators Lyson, Wardner

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 **WHEREAS**, only the 1.5 million acre coastal plain, 8 percent of the Arctic National  
17 Wildlife Refuge, is being considered for development and less than 2,000 acres of the  
18 1.5 million acres will be affected by surface development activities while the remaining  
19 17.5 million acres or 92 percent of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will remain permanently  
20 closed to any kind of development as federally designated wilderness; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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