

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session
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SENATOR CATHY GIESSEL

February 2, 2012

Honorable Representative Doc Hastings
1203 Longworth
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Hastings,

I am writing in support of HR 3407, which would open a small portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to responsible oil and gas development.

We know that significant hydrocarbon resources exist in the 1002 Area of ANWR. Credible estimates identify more than 16 billion barrels of oil and 18 trillion cubic feet of natural gas lie within the 1002 area of ANWR.

The 1002 area is about the size of the state of South Carolina. The specific footprint designated for development is about 3 square miles. Advances in technology will make it possible to access significant resources from this small area.

Given that the US imports about 49 percent of the oil (2010) it consumes, I believe it is vital that the opportunity for oil and gas development on the Alaska coastal plain be seized.

Extraction of oil from the North Slope has been conducted in a very environmentally safe way. The area's caribou herd has increased from about 5,000 animals in the 1970's to over 65,000 animals today. Polar bear, fox, geese and other wildlife thrive in close proximity to the development activities, without negative affect.

A profound majority of Alaskans, seventy-eight percent, support petroleum resource development in the 1002 area. Every Alaska Governor, every Legislature, and elected Congressional representative and Senator from Alaska have supported responsible development in ANWR. In addition, the people who live in the area understand the importance of development. The North Slope Borough and the Alaska Federation of Natives, as well as residents of the community of Kaktovik, also support responsible development.

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I add my voice to the voices of Alaskans who, for decades, have advocated for the opening of the 1002 area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to responsible oil and gas development. I strongly support passage of HR 3407.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy Giessel".

Senator Cathy Giessel
Alaska State Senate, District P