

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## Senator Cathy Giessel Senate District P

February 14, 2012

Committee on Rules  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-312 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Dreier,

STOP! Please do not strip the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) provision from HR 7. We must open a small portion of the ANWR to responsible oil and gas development.

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

Given that the US imports about 49 percent of the oil (2010) it consumes, 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. Under the state's stewardship 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.

One vote, by a visionary leader, allowed construction of the Trans Alaska Pipeline, providing the US with vital petroleum resources. America needs the same courage and vision today. You can be that person by voting to open ANWR.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Cathy Giessel in cursive.

Senator Cathy Giessel  
Alaska State Senate, District P