

To Democratic Subscribers

Vote No on H.R. 6285

Sending Office: Honorable Mary Sattler Peltola

Sent By: [REDACTED]

Vote No on H.R. 6285 – Alaska’s Right to Produce

On Wednesday, we will consider H.R. 6285, Alaska’s Right to Produce Act. This bill would reinstate awarded leases on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and reverse restrictions on oil and gas leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska.

I am the Democratic co-lead for this bill and voted for it in committee. However, this legislation has a significant unintended consequence that could adversely affect indigenous communities and the Arctic ocean environment. **The bill’s intent is to allow Alaska to maintain onshore oil and gas, but a provision within it would nullify the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area, potentially harming these communities and the environment.**

The Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area was created at the request of Alaska Native Tribes in the region. It empowers the people who have lived there for thousands of years to exercise their self-determination and have equal voices on policy decisions affecting the region. It is a crucial area for managing the impacts of climate change on our Arctic environments, including increased vessel traffic, moving fish stocks, marine debris, and increased military activity. Its importance cannot be overstated.

We saw recently why the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area needs to remain in place: NOAA developed the “Northern Bering Sea Effects of Trawling Survey,” an experiment to see the impacts of commercial bottom trawling in an area of the Bering Sea where it is currently banned. In their opposition to the project, the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Intertribal Advisory Council said that NOAA’s plan perfectly illustrated the two reasons that the area was established in the first place: the history of Bering Sea Tribes not being involved in policy decisions, and the threat of bottom trawling moving into the Northern Bering Sea ecosystem.

By nullifying this area, we are not only breaking our promise to Tribes but also directly harming fishing communities. The consequences of this action could be severe and long-lasting, underscoring the need for us to act responsibly and protect these communities and their way of life. Alaskans face many challenges and threats to our unique ways of life. We are on the brink of being forced to import natural gas from a foreign country, and our fishermen are experiencing an economic crisis coupled with depleted fish stocks.

I support oil and gas development. Alaska needs energy, and we have a wealth of resources that could be developed. However, the unintended consequences of this bill are too significant to allow it to pass.

I urge you to vote no on H.R. 6285. If you have any questions, please contact [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]; 5-5765).

Sincerely,

Mary Peltola

Representative for All Alaska

Related Bill Information

Bill Type: H.R.

Bill Type: 6285

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