

Vote No on H.R. 6285

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.**

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 Martha Newell (martha.newell@mail.house.gov; 5-5765).