

**Testimony of  
Alaska Congressman Don Young**

**November 2, 2017**

**Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resource  
“Potential for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development in ANWR’s 1002 Area**

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, thank you for having the hearing.

I am one of the few people – there’s only one person left in the Congress – that went through this battle 42 years ago. This 1002 Area was created by Senator Jackson, Senator Magnusson and Senator Stevens – when the Senators were really knowledgeable about what goes on. We recognized this area at that time – the value of the oil and why we have the 1002 Area. As you mentioned, ANWR is about 19 million acres of land. The 1002 footprint is approximately .01 percent of that area.

I represent Alaska. You see anything different on my nose right now? I am Alaska. One tenth of one tenth percent is what we’re talking about disturbance. This little dot on my nose – I weigh 225 lbs. – this little dot is what we’re talking about in surface impact in the 1002 Area. That’s a potential of approximately – early estimates were 10 billion barrels – and now estimates are probably around 20 billion barrels of oil.

Senator Sullivan brought up a very important point; this is also an important issue of national security. It is the one weapon Russia is wielding over the international community. We could have the security for the nation as a whole, while supporting our international Allies.

I was interested to hear about the caribou. You’re going to hear a lot of nonsense later on today.

I’m also interested in Canada. The Ambassador recently sent out a letter about opposing ANWR. Did we say anything when they drilled 270 wells right across the border in the area of the caribou? 270 areas were drilled in the caribou herd areas, where they cross every year. They also built a 400 mile road right across the calving areas too. Did we say anything then? This is not about the environment or the caribou, it’s about economics. I’m ashamed of Canada right now because they’re wielding an emotional argument that most people don’t know what they’re talking about nor been there, nor seen it, nor understand the caribou herd. That’s the thing that bothers me most of all about the legislative process.

What used to be, as I mentioned, Warren Magnuson and Senator Jackson, who worked together when States were affected. We didn’t get involved in the shipyards in certain member’s districts, asking about how they mismanufactured ships. We didn’t do that. But we have people going around and saying, this is a great environmental area. Maybe we’ll actually find how many of you have gone up there. But let’s not forget to think about the national security impact.

I've supported this and fought for this 13 times; 13 times I've moved it out of the House and it died on the Senate side all but once. President Clinton vetoed it in 1996 because he said it wouldn't relieve the embargo we had at that time quick enough. Think about that a moment.

If we are to be energy sufficient, to control the international instances that can be faced, we need ANWR. The Congress recognized it when we passed the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act (ANILCA). Scoop Jackson, Warren Magnuson, Mo Udall, all agreed to this provision because they knew the value of that oil and the value it had to this nation. Now we're fighting the same battle again because of the ignorance and misinformation from those that would prefer not having any resource development at all, not only in Alaska – we're easy to pick on because we're a three person delegation – but for the nation as a whole; to make us less strong, to make us a second rate nation. That's what a lot of you wish to do. As a House member, I'm going to pass this again and I hope you have the courage to do what's right for this nation – what's good for Alaska, what's good for the nation, and good for all the people in the future.

Madam Chairman, I thank you for having this hearing. I remind you, look at this little blue dot on my nose – that is the footprint in the 1002 Area. I don't think it changes my appearance that much. The coastal plain is not the pristine area portrayed by all the environmental groups. It's a flat terrain that was in fact set aside by this Congress and the Washington Senators for development, not preservation. I yield back.

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