

BOTTOM LINE: THE 2024 ROD MUST BE NULLIFIED

The 2024 ROD's restrictive approach is unlawful, unworkable, and deeply harmful to our people whose lands and livelihoods are directly affected.

S.J. Res. 91 and H.J. Res 131:

- Upholds federal law
- Defends Congress's authority
- Restores the 2020 program
- Strengthens U.S. energy security
- Respects Iñupiat voices, including Kaktovik
- Protects ANCSA rights and village corporation lands
- Ensures a fair and functional leasing program going forward

KIC appreciates your leadership in standing with our community and ensuring that the laws governing our homeland are followed. We urge swift passage of S.J. Res. 91 and H.J. Res 131.

Thank you for your continued support of Kaktovik and the Iñupiat people of the North Slope.

Sincerely,

CHARLES LAMPE,
President, Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT: COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

The 1,563,500-million-acre Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) is a frontier basin that holds strong potential for oil and gas development. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates it may contain between 4.25 and 11.8 billion barrels of technically recoverable oil.

The hallmark legislation from President Trump's first term, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, directed the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to establish and administer a competitive oil and gas program for the Coastal Plain. On Jan. 6, 2021, the BLM conducted its first lease sale in the Coastal Plain of ANWR, pursuant to the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program August 2020 Record of Decision (ROD). Then, in 2021, Biden's Department of the Interior ignored congressional intent and suspended all activities related to implementing the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program pending completion of a comprehensive analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Then, on December 8, 2024, on Biden's way out of office after losing the election, his administration issued a new Record of Decision that made only 400,000 acres available for a second lease sale, effectively closing off 74.4 percent of the Coastal Plain to oil and gas development.

The BLM is currently implementing Executive Order 14153 and Secretary's Order 3422 to unleash the resource potential of the Coastal Plain by reinstating the 2020 ROD and resuming and expanding leasing on the Coastal Plain, in accordance with the law. The BLM is also implementing the One Big Beautiful Bill Act which requires four lease sales in the Coastal Plain over the next seven years.

The table below summarizes and compares key aspects of the Biden 2024 ROD and the 2020 ROD for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The 2020 ROD would govern the program if the Biden 2024 ROD is disapproved.

2024 Biden ROD:	2020 ROD:	CRA Implications:
400,000 acres open for oil and gas leasing.	1,563,500 acres open for oil and gas leasing.	Open 1,163,500 additional acres for oil and gas leasing
231,700 acre as access to directional drilling to access oil and gas resources.	358,100 acre as access to directional drilling to access oil and gas resources.	Open 126,400 additional acres to directional drilling
84,300 acres requiring controlled surface use.	No acres requiring controlled surface use.	Revert 84,300 acres to leasing without controlled surface use restrictions

2024 Biden ROD:	2020 ROD:	CRA Implications:
1,532,400 riparian or wetland acres.	1,508,800 riparian or wetland acres.	Reduce 23,600 acres identified as riparian areas and wetlands

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I was participating in the 2025 Oregon Business Plan Leadership Summit and necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 635, the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert Chamberlin to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted no.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 632, H.J. Res. 131, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision." On rollcall vote No. 632, had I been present, I would have voted no.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HOLSTEIN MANUFACTURING

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor Holstein Manufacturing of Ida County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 1976 on a family farm outside Holstein, IA, Holstein Manufacturing began when the town needed a dependable way to cook a whole hog for a fundraiser to save Turner Hall. When the available equipment failed, Bruce Schmidt and a few neighbors built a better solution, unknowingly launching a business that would someday send products across all 50 States and around the world. What began as a local fix quickly became a thriving manufacturing operation. By 1978, a dedicated building went up on the Schmidt farm, where the company still operates today. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Holstein Manufacturing grew alongside Iowa's agricultural community, partnering with groups like the Iowa Pork Producers and Iowa Cattle-men's Association to showcase their equipment at fairs and national conventions. Those early relationships cemented the company's deep ties to agriculture, a connection that continues to guide its mission and product development.

Under the leadership of president and CEO Darrin Schmidt, Bruce's son, Hol-

stein Manufacturing remains committed to the values that shaped its beginnings: craftsmanship, innovation, and solving real-world needs. While still known for the high-quality grills that first put them on the map, the company and its team of ten now produce a wide range of equipment, including chicken and rib cookers, deep fat fryers, corn roasters, animal feeding and handling equipment, wood stoves, stock trailers, and more. Each addition to their product line has been driven by customer needs, whether local farmers, food vendors, or national businesses seeking durable, dependable solutions. With advanced laser-cutting capabilities, Holstein Manufacturing can design and fabricate precision parts for both its own equipment and for other manufacturers. Their stainless steel products, engineered to withstand heavy use in the food industry, have earned National Sanitation Foundation, NSF, approval, underscoring their commitment to safety and quality.

Despite their international reach, Holstein Manufacturing's commitment to its hometown has never faded. As active members of Ida County Economic Development and the Holstein Chamber of Commerce, the company continues to support local growth and remains a pillar of the community. Additionally, they support numerous local organizations such as 4-H, Future Farmers of America, and churches. From a homemade hog cooker built for a community fundraiser to a respected lineup of custom-built equipment used worldwide, Holstein Manufacturing proves that success flourishes when craftsmanship meets creativity and when a business never forgets the community that sparked its beginning.

It is my honor to recognize Bruce and Darrin Schmidt, along with the entire Holstein Manufacturing team, for their outstanding work and dedication to their community. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN A. EDWARDS

• Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to recognize and honor Stephen A. Edwards as he concludes his tenure as CEO and executive director of the Virginia Port Authority. Mr. Edwards leadership from January 2021 to December 2025 has steered the Port of Virginia to new heights of success, positioning it as one of the most modern, efficient, and future-ready maritime gateways in the United States.

Over the past 5 years, the Port of Virginia has emerged as one of the top container gateways in the United States, ranking as the sixth-busiest container port in the Nation and handling more than 3.28 million TEUs in FY 2023, following a record 3.7 million TEUs in FY 2022 and 3.5 million TEUs in FY 2024, the second-best performance in its history. During this same

period, the Port of Virginia has been consistently cited by customers and industry observers as one of America's best ports. Recent economic impact studies from the College of William & Mary have documented that, in FY 2022, the Port of Virginia and Virginia's maritime industry helped support approximately 565,000 jobs, more than \$124.1 billion in spending, and \$63 billion in gross State product, and those numbers have grown since then.

Stephen Edwards brought more than two decades of international experience leading major port and terminal operations to the Commonwealth and provided the Port of Virginia with a global perspective on port competitiveness, maritime logistics, and infrastructure delivery. Mr. Edwards advanced a \$450 million dredging and widening initiative that upon completion will give the Commonwealth the deepest and widest commercial shipping channels on the East Coast. During his tenure, the Port of Virginia executed the \$1.4 billion Gateway Investment Program, and delivered it on time and on budget, to expand capacity, modernize operations, and position Virginia to handle the next generation of ultra-large container vessels. The Port also completed major modernization efforts at Norfolk International Terminals, the Virginia Inland Port, and Richmond Marine Terminal. It doubled its port-wide rail lift capacity to 2 million rail lifts per year, significantly strengthening Virginia's intermodal reach into the Midwest. Finally, it concluded the \$220 million transformation of Portsmouth Marine Terminals into a major staging and logistics platform for offshore wind development, supporting Virginia's position as a national leader in clean energy infrastructure.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Edwards has been widely recognized for his global maritime expertise, his commitment to operational excellence, his stewardship of public resources, and his dedication to strengthening Virginia's position as a premier gateway for international commerce. His staff was also a reliable source of helpful information on the impact of Federal policy changes on the port and quick-turnaround information that helped me and my team advocate effectively for Federal infrastructure resources to come to Virginia.

On behalf of myself and Senator WARNER and our colleagues in the Virginia congressional delegation, we wish Stephen A. Edwards well in his future endeavors and thank him for his contributions to Virginia's economic success.●

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH MCCARDLE

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Elizabeth McCardle, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done on behalf of my office and the State of

South Dakota. Ms. McCardle is a graduate of Mitchell High School in Mitchell, SD. She is currently attending the University of South Dakota, where she studies criminal justice. Ms. McCardle is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience. She has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ms. McCardle for all of the work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLEZTON WARD

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Charlezton Ward, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work he has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Mr. Ward is a graduate of Milbank High School in Milbank, SD. He is currently attending Augustana University, where he studies government and international affairs. Mr. Ward is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience. He has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Ward for all of the work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEDSHORE AMBULANCE

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate Medshore Ambulance as they celebrate their 50th anniversary of exceptional service to the people of South Carolina.

For five decades, Medshore has served South Carolina communities with distinction, providing medical transportation, special event coverage, and community support services. What began as a singular vision has grown into an organization providing comprehensive health services that has touched countless lives across our great State.

Medshore's commitment to excellence has been recognized repeatedly through prestigious awards and achievements. The organization received three American Heart Association Mission Lifeline Awards, and they have been honored as South Carolina's Large EMS System of the Year multiple times. In 2001, Medshore became the first ambulance service in South Carolina to receive accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services. Medshore's adherence to the highest industry standards and unwavering commitment to continuous improvement embodies the values of quality, reliability, and community service every day.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Medshore Ambulance on this remarkable milestone and in

thanking all those who have contributed to its success over the past 50 years. Their dedication ensures that South Carolina residents receive the highest standard of emergency medical care and transport when they need it most.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. JULIE ANN FREISCHLAG

● Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the exceptional career of Dr. Julie Ann Freischlag, a nationally respected surgeon, educator, and healthcare leader whose service has transformed Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist and strengthened medical care across North Carolina.

Dr. Freischlag arrived at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist in 2017 after a distinguished career as a vascular surgeon, professor, section chief, and academic leader, including service as dean of the school of medicine at the University of California, Davis. Since coming to North Carolina, she has guided a period of significant growth, including the addition of High Point and Wilkes medical centers, the creation of the Birth Center, and the expansion of the Wake Forest University School of Medicine to Charlotte.

She also played an important role in the 2020 integration of Wake Forest Baptist and Atrium Health and later in the formation of Advocate Health, where she became the system's first chief academic officer. Under her leadership, research funding at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine has nearly doubled, reflecting her deep commitment to scientific discovery and innovation.

Throughout her career, Dr. Freischlag has been a national leader in academic medicine, including service as president of the Society of Vascular Surgery, president of the American College of Surgeons, and chair of the Association of American Medical Colleges Board of Directors. She has published extensively, delivered hundreds of presentations and lectures, and mentored generations of students, residents, and faculty.

While her accomplishments are extraordinary, she is equally admired for her warmth, optimism, and the support she provides to colleagues and students. In recognition of her profound impact, the medical center board named its newest care tower the Julie Ann Freischlag Tower as a lasting tribute to her leadership and legacy.

Dr. Freischlag has dedicated her career to improving health and helping others, and North Carolina is grateful for her remarkable service. I extend my sincere appreciation to her for all she has done for our State, our medical community, and the many patients whose lives have been touched by her work.●