

# AOGA survey: Alaskans support ANWR development

Seven out of 10 Alaskans feel that oil and gas operations should be allowed in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, according to a public opinion survey for the Alaska Oil and Gas Association.

The statewide survey of Alaska residents on questions relating to ANWR was conducted by Dittman Research Corp. in November.

"The survey clearly shows that most Alaskans want the federal government to allow oil and gas exploration in the highly prospective ANWR Coastal Plain," said William W. Hopkins, executive director of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association.

"We believe Alaskans realize the benefits petroleum development in the ANWR Coastal Plain will provide to the state and to the nation," he said.

"Oil produced from Alaska's North Slope currently provides over 20 percent of all the crude oil produced in

the United States today," he said. "This production is expected to begin declining in the next few years, and existing North Slope fields will be producing less than one-third of their current production by the time an oil

## Young retains posts on key committees

U.S. Rep. Don Young announced that he has retained his positions as vice-chairman of the House Interior Committee and the Fish and Wildlife Subcommittee of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

Both committees have the primary jurisdiction over legislation concerning the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In addition, Young will continue to serve on the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

Committee recommendations were finalized recently. Young, who serves

discovery in the ANWR Coastal Plain could come on line."

Alaskans also recognize the economic benefits which would be generated by oil and gas activity in the

on the Republican leadership committee responsible for placing members of Congress on House committees, said that he was pleased with the final composition of the Interior and Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

"I have received personal commitments from the new Republican members of these committees to follow my leadership on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge issue, and on other issues important to Alaska," Young said.

Coastal Plain of ANWR, according to the survey.

Three reasons cited most frequently by those who favored allowing oil and gas operations in the ANWR Coastal Plain were the need for the petroleum resources, the benefit to the economy and the industry's proven ability to operate in an environmentally safe manner.

An overwhelming majority of Alaskans surveyed — 86 percent — feel the oil and gas industry has operated in an environmentally safe manner at Prudhoe Bay, America's largest oil field which is located 65 miles west of the refuge on the Arctic North Slope.

When asked if they believe the oil and gas industry can operate safely in wildlife refuges in Alaska, 83 percent of those surveyed said they believed the petroleum industry can operate safely.