

Senate Permits Oil Drilling in Alaska Refuge

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FOX NEWS



WASHINGTON — The Senate brought the country one step closer to drilling for oil and natural gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge after it narrowly defeated an attempt to kill drilling in an amendment attached to the deficit reduction bill

Cantwell D-Wash fell two votes short when the Senate defeated her amendment to strip the provision, 51-48. Supporters of drilling say the vote reflects new realities of higher gasoline prices.

Picture above: A herd of musk ox graze in an area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, known as Area 1002, in this undated file photo

Drilling would occur on the coastal plane on a 1.5 million acre plot within ANWR's 19.5 million-acre * terrain. Available oil reserves are estimated between 4 billion and 12 billion barrels, a six-month to 20-month supply for the entire United States if it were completely dependent on the reserve. Currently, the United States now uses about 7.3 billion barrels of oil a year. Almost 60 percent of it is imported. Even with instant approval for drilling, it will take 10 years before the oil from ANWR will be brought to market, and another 10 years after that to get to 1 million barrels pumped per day.

"There is an average of over 500 oil spills a year on Alaskan North Slope, and over 4,000 spills in the last 10 years. Let's not pollute one of the great last refuges of America," Cantwell said. In contrast, "Republicans have proposed to find \$50 billion in savings from a \$2.5 trillion budget, and not a single Democrat will help," DeLay said.

The provision in the budget bill assumed \$2.5 billion in federal revenue from oil lease sales over the next five years. Alaska would get a like amount as well as half of future oil royalties from the refuge.

* A football field (including the two end zones) is 360 feet long and 160 feet wide for a total of 57,600 square feet. When you take away the two 30-foot-long end zones at each end, the field is 48,000 square feet, making an acre about 91% of the field. ~ Mr. Daughtry *

1. Approximately what percentage of voters in the Senate supported drilling for oil and natural as in Alaska?
2. How many square feet are in the 19.5 million-acre terrain? What formula in mathematics is always expressed in square units (volume, perimeter, etc.)?
3. Annually, in the United States we use about how many barrels of oil?
4. What percentage of \$2,500,000,000,000 is a savings of \$50,000,000,000?
5. Numerically how much is imported?
6. In the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least five ways using the "**Reading Across The Curriculum**" poster simplifies understanding of the material. Be specific.
7. Using contextual clues, explain the meaning of the italicized word *provision* above.
8. In paragraph form, do you support the claim being made by Washington state Democrat Maria Cantwell or Republican Tom Delay?
9. In paragraph form, compare and contrast the pros and cons of drilling for oil and natural gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
10. In paragraph form, explain three legitimate and educational purposes behind The Daughtry Times.