was the first question. How much is an acre? It is 208 by 208 feet, or the same size as a country school. This list went on. I tried to describe it some other ways. None of that seemed to register.

Well, what is 2,000 acres, they would ask me. I said, it is not even a big farm in Iowa anymore; a little more than average, but not big. They seemed to absorb that information, go down and put their card in and vote ''no'' on drilling in ANWR. That was the information and research that seemed to be a deciding factor.

They did not want to disturb 2,000 acres out of 19.6 million acres, and this is just going on the 2,000 acres of the coastal plain itself. You do the calculation, and it turns out to be the 2,000 acres just of ANWR. Not even doing the calculation of all of Alaska, but just of ANWR is 0.01 percent. That is 1/100th of 1 percent of the ANWR region. Of the 19.6 million acres that is the ANWR region, that is all that would be disturbed to pull out of it this massive supply of oil that I happen to have on this chart.

Now, this is the reserve that is ANWR. All of U.S. proven reserves total a little more than 21 billion barrels of oil. When we add ANWR to this, it adds another 10.4 billion barrels of oil. That adds another 50 percent to the supply, and this piece up here would go almost off the charts. If you can add half again to the U.S. oil supply, why wouldn't you do that?

If anyone went up to the North Slope of Alaska and would see where we developed the oil fields and see where we set up the Alaska pipeline and pump that oil down here for years now, and that began in 1972. Yes, 1972 is when the construction began. So we are 34 years into this. We have been delivering oil for 30-plus years down here to the United States, and we have had a spill of a tanker. We have had a couple of small spills on the ground, all cleaned up. I have not heard the news about it being anything else. It has been a good, sound environmental approach that came up there in Alaska, and they created a lot of the science and technology. The environmental compatibility has been developed up there.

If you look at the North Slope of Alaska, the identical topography of ANWR, it is right next door, what I see up there is you have to show somebody where the oil fields are. The oil fields on the North Slope of Alaska, people are thinking they are going to go there looking for pump jacks sitting there pumping, and maybe see an oil derrick, and maybe they are thinking of oil spilling out of the pipe. They do not see it as a neat, green, environmentally friendly region.

But on the trip up there to the North Slope when we flew over those North Slope oil fields, and I have worked in the oil fields, I looked down, and they said, we are over the oil fields now. I said, I do not see them; can you point them out to me? They had to point them out to me.

It turns out there are no roads that go to these wells. You cannot see the collector lines that are the smaller pipelines that have to be collecting this oil from the wells that go to the main terminal, or collection stations before they go to the main terminal. What you will see from the air if it is pointed out to you is a work-over pad that is perhaps white rock, limestone rock. I am not sure what kind of rock it is up there, but it is piled 2, 3, 4 feet above the Arctic tundra. It is perhaps 50 feet wide, 150 feet long. But it is a small pad. That is all that designates where the well is. There is not a derrick sitting there. There is not a pump jack sitting there. These are submersible pumps. There is zero clearance, and there is nothing that sticks up out of the ground. That pad is there so in the wintertime, if they need to work on a well, if a pump fails or they want to do some maintenance, they build an ice road in the wintertime.

It is easy to come by ice in the wintertime in that country. They send the trucks out, they pull the truck over on the pad, set up the work-over rig, pull the pump out, fix the pump or replace it and drop it back down in, trip the pipe in, hook it back up, and they are good to go. They have quite a few months of the year that they can work there, but they do not go into that region and work during the period of time when it is a thaw. So it is a very environmentally friendly oil field on the North Slope.

ANWR would be even more environmentally friendly because we have the ability to directionally drill. So we can set up on one of those pads, set the drill rig out, and we can drill out in directions in a radial pattern, however the geology directs it to be drilled, and pull a lot of oil into one location without having to go set up a pad here and a rig there and without having to disturb some tundra.

Mr. Speaker, while I am on the subject of disturbed tundra, I would add also that I saw some tundra that had been disturbed, and we are told by the environmentalists that it cannot be reestablished. Once you put a track in the tundra, with a bulldozer or a truck or a caribou, that that track is there in perpetuity; that it never comes back again; that it is such a fragile environment that any damage to any plant life, any depression that would be pushed into the thawed surface of the tundra is there almost forever.

Well, if that is the case, I do not know how they can tolerate allowing caribou to walk across that country because they definitely put tracks in there and leave those tracks behind them. Mother Nature has a way of recovering from these things.

The president of the corporation that represents the city of Kaktovik up in ANWR right on the shore of the Arctic Ocean told me that they have reestablished tundra. They will go out there and drag it smooth. They can seed it. Actually, the soil has seed that is already in it, and in 5 to 6 years that tundra is reestablished and grown back. I saw some of that. It had a little brighter green than the older tundra, just like new seeding in your lawn has a little brighter green than the more established seeding of a lawn that has been there for awhile. But we have not damaged any tundra. Any bit we have has been reestablished.

The risk to the wildlife is nonexistent. That has always been a farce. The caribou herd that is on the North Slope that everyone was so concerned about was 7,000 caribou back in 1972. Today it is over 28,000 caribou that are there.

One reporter told me of course there are all those caribou, the pipeliners shot all of the wolves. Well, I guess you can reach a long way to make an argument if that is what you want to make, Mr. Speaker; but, no, the pipeliners did not shoot all of the wolves.

I was signed up to go up there. It was a difficult contract that one had to agree to.

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They sent only men up there into that region back in 1972. And there were some pretty tough rules that one had to live by. One of them was no alcohol. The other one was no guns. The other one was no gambling, and the other one was no women. So you know with those kinds of restraints on there, they had to pay a lot of money to get people to go up there and work, and they did. It was a good-paying job then. But no guns was part of it. They didn't want violence to erupt up there in the camps. So with no guns it is kind of hard to shoot all the wolves. In fact, it is kind of hard to shoot a wolf anyway if you are busy trying to make a living and working seven days a week as was scheduled there.

And so the caribou herd now has gone from 7,000 to 28,000 head and the environment, if it were damaged at all, if there was any proof of it all, you can bet we would have heard about it on the floor of this Chamber, Mr. Speaker. But we did not. And we didn't hear about it because there hasn't been significant damage.

And so here we have a north slope oil field that is winding down, and a pipeline coming down from Alaska that needs to have oil in it. If it doesn't continue to have oil in it, eventually, if it sits empty, it will degrade. And if sits empty very long, it will degrade to the point where it has to be replaced.

It is to our interest to keep oil flowing through that for a lot of reasons. One is just to keep the pipeline up so that it doesn't degrade and require us at some point to either replace it or simply demolish it or abandon it. But the other reason is we sit here with an ability to add another 50 percent to our overall American supply of crude oil, half again more; this 21 billion going to 31.4 billion, up to the top of the chart, Mr. Speaker. And we are watching this exploration of U.S. oil diminish, diminish, diminish because of regulations,