

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: One thing that happened great, John — I mean, if — if you look — John, you were even in favor of it because you're an energy person — but we helped Alaska. But we really helped the United States with ANWR, for Dan. They did a fantastic job.

Ronald Reagan tried to get it approved; couldn't do it. Every President tried to get ANWR, and they couldn't do it. I got it approved.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Yes, sir. Great.

THE PRESIDENT: People don't even talk about it, and that's okay. They don't have to talk about it. That's why I talk about it. (Laughter.) Because nobody else will.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: We love it in Alaska, I'll tell you that.

THE PRESIDENT: But ANWR is perhaps the largest find in the world. Right? It could be.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Could be.

THE PRESIDENT: But it's certainly one of them.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: But it's been talked about for years, probably one of the — maybe the largest find anywhere in the world. And we got it approved a year ago. And you're working on it, and it's incredible.

But Ronald Reagan could not do it. He said that was one of his big disappointments. He could not get ANWR approved. They couldn't get it through. And we got it through. We got it passed. And that was a great achievement for everybody in this room, and it was a great achievement, actually, for the two of you, the — the big oil guys. Right? It was a big — and I have to say, these senators and the people in this room, they love energy. Not that they love it; they love the jobs it produces and they like what it represents. And it gives us total independence. So it's very important.