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Attn: Coastal Plain Oil & Gas Leasing Program EIS
222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

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222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13

Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Email: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Established after the passage of the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), Ukpeagvik Iñupiat Corporation (UIC) is the village corporation representing the Iñupiat shareholders and descendants originally from Barrow, Alaska.

As an Alaska Native corporation with the energy industry in our back yard, UIC sees recent developments in Alaska's North Slope oil and gas industry, which also includes *Congress' recent approval to allow energy exploration and development activities in the 1002 Coastal Plain of ANWR (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge)* – as exceptional opportunities for growth within the region and state. Progress like this affords Alaska the chance to sustain its educational, healthcare, transportation, public safety, water, sewer and sanitation facilities, and let's not-forget-to-mention the thousands of jobs that will be created – in turn, helping families in Alaska and elsewhere.

UIC and its family of companies look forward to any future opportunities that may be made available through developments like this. With that being said, this is further evidence of our region's strategic location and how vital it is to a comprehensive national energy policy.

Brought on by progressive energy development - leaders from across the North Slope of Alaska met during a formal roundtable discussion and adopted nine (9) principles that address Arctic energy development. These nine principles - make Alaska's energy industry aware of our North Slope communities' stance in relation to Arctic exploration and development.

North Slope Leadership Roundtable Guiding Principles for Arctic Development:

1. No Tankers;	6. Consultation with Tribes and ANCSA Corporations and Leasing Preference.
2. Undersea Pipeline Placement Subsistence Protection;	7. Consultation Required for Use of ANCSA lands.
3. Undersea Pipeline Routing No Ice Gouging;	8. Placement of Structures for Maximum Benefit.
4. Onshore Pipeline Placement Subsistence Protection;	9. Arctic Slope ANCSA Corporation Economic Development and Land Use Plans.
5. Preferential hiring, training, contracting for Arctic Slope Shareholders/Tribal Members.	



In addition, 10 years ago the UIC board of directors had the foresight to approve UIC's *Statement on Oil & Gas Development*, which in part reads, "We acknowledge the inevitability of exploration and development by the oil and gas industry and will support these activities as long as they are done in a way that ensures: **1.) Protection and preservation of the Iñupiat culture and subsistence lifestyle; 2.) Economic benefit for our community; 3.) Employment for our shareholders and their families; 4.) Contract opportunities for our companies.**"

Today, UIC continually adapts to an ever-changing world. With more and more focus on the global Arctic, Barrow is right at the edge of a quickly developing Arctic frontier, and UIC is poised to proactively support industry in fields as diverse as Internet technology to Arctic marine transport.

We understand that the scoping stage of this process helps the Bureau of Land Management and cooperating agencies to determine the issues that should be analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments to this process in helping ensure that potential future development is done in a way that is respectful of our culture and environment.

We believe that as you move to create the draft Environmental Impact Statement, the following issues should be of particular focus:

- I. Indigenous Knowledge from community members should be incorporated into any environmental and/or wildlife studies conducted in the Coastal Plain and the Kaktovikmiut should be consulted in how these studies take place.
- II. Ensure that any adverse effects to wildlife and subsistence resources are thoroughly studied and protected.
- III. Ensure that the Kaktovikmiut are an integral part of this process – their voices should be heard above those who do not live on or near the 1002 area.
- IV. Require that those who buy leases in the 1002 area attend cultural and environmental seminar given by Kaktovikmiut.
- V. Recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Service to enter into a co-management arrangement with the community of Kaktovik in the management of the Coastal Plain and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge more broadly.
- VI. Community needs to be provided access, especially All-Terrain Vehicle in the summer and fall months, across land on the Coastal Plain for hunting, fishing, camping, and subsistence use sites.
- VII. Community trails, campsites, and subsistence use sites used by the community of Kaktovik should be identified and protected in the EIS and should not be included in a lease sale.
- VIII. Support should be provided to the community, especially Native Village of Kaktovik, to assist in their capacity to participate effectively in this process. This should include, if the community desires, BLM hire of local resident of Kaktovik to facilitate meetings and work to communicate between local entities and the BLM/DOI



- IX. Impact Aid has not been addressed; Kaktovik needs to know that they will receive assistance for their community.
- X. Village Health Assessment should be a part of this process to provide a baseline measure of the health of the community to ensure that the health of Kaktovik is not negatively affected should any development occur.

Respectfully Yours,

Price E. Brower
UIC Chairman

Delbert J. Rexford
UIC President & CEO

About UIC

UIC is the Alaska Native Village Corporation of Barrow, Alaska and provides social and economic resources to over 2,900 Iñupiat shareholders and their descendants. Since its establishment, UIC has diversified its investments and consistently ranks among the top Alaskan-owned companies. UIC employs more than 3,000 people and provides services to clients in a variety of industries, including operations in Barrow, construction, architecture and engineering, regulatory consulting, information technology, marine operations, logistics, and maintenance and manufacturing. More information about UIC and its family of companies can be found at www.uicalaska.com.