

Fairbanks
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Testimony of Carl Portman
ANWR Lease Sales
Before Bureau of Land Management
Fairbanks, Alaska
May 29, 2018

Good evening. My name is Carl Portman and I am here tonight speaking on my own behalf. I was born and raised in Fairbanks and proudly worked on the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline during summer break while attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

I remember what life was like before TAPS and I paid a state income tax before 1980, lived through a shallow recession in the early 1980s, and the deeper recession in the late 80s. I have seen my share of Alaska booms and busts.

With the pipeline now running at three-quarters empty and North Slope oil production on the decline, I see an increasing risk of TAPS facing a premature shutdown. If this were to happen, Alaska would face an unmitigated economic disaster – no doubt a depression beyond what we have ever experienced. Clearly, without increased production, the state's economy is in jeopardy. Quite frankly, I am

worried about my future and my family's and neighbors and friends future here in Alaska.

According to a recent study by ISER, up to 50% of the state's current economy and jobs, including those of public employees, are in some way connected to the oil industry. The same report stressed that nothing else, including North Slope natural gas, can replace oil in the state's economy. Without oil, how will the state meet its long-term obligations – from funding essential services to public employee pensions and education.

According to the Energy Information Administration, oil and gas development in ANWR could result in new domestic production ranging from 510,000 to nearly 1.5 million barrels per day for a period extending for approximately 12 years, with additional production for many years following. Such production would create thousands of new jobs, refill TAPS, and generate billions of dollars in new revenues to the federal and Alaska treasuries.

When the 1002 area is opened, not one acre of designated

Wilderness would be disturbed by development. With advances in technology significantly diminishing the footprint of development, I know we do not have to choose between energy production and environmental protection. It is possible to develop the energy reserves inside ANWR while directly utilizing only a fraction of the area. This can be accomplished without significant disturbance to wildlife, subsistence use or the environment.

In conclusion, we have safely developed 17 billion barrels of oil in the last 41 years. I, as well as a strong majority of Alaskans, as polls have consistently shown, support lease sales on the coastal plain. Thank you.