

HAND DELIVERED

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LLM ALASKA STATE OFFICE
PUBLIC INFO CENTER
AK-954

BLM, Alaska State Office
Attn: Coastal Plain EIS
222 W 7th Avenue #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513



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June 18, 2018

VIA HAND DELIVERY AND E-MAIL

BLM, Alaska State Office
Attention – Coastal Plain EIS
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

Re: Support for Coastal Plain EIS Process

Dear BLM Reviewers:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has published a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska (Notice of Intent), which initiates a “scoping” process to assist BLM in identifying relevant issues that will influence the scope of the EIS and guide its development. ConocoPhillips Alaska submits these comments in response to the Notice of Intent, and in support of the EIS process that is now underway.

ConocoPhillips Alaska is a leader in oil and gas exploration and development in Alaska, and one of the largest owners of state and federal leases. We explore for and develop oil and gas resources safely and in an environmentally and socially responsible way. We have over 50 years of experience operating on Alaska’s North Slope, with a strong track record in implementing stringent regulatory and permit requirements and engaging with local communities. ConocoPhillips Alaska embraces our role in responsibly accessing, developing and producing oil and natural gas with high regard for environmental stewardship and the subsistence lifestyle of residents. We have for decades and are continuing to sponsor scientific studies on the North Slope regarding the region’s air quality, hydrology, archaeology, wildlife habitat, mammals (with a focus on polar bears and caribou), birds, and fish. Many studies are carried out cooperatively, working with local communities, NGOs, government agencies and other stakeholders to assess and monitor the ecosystems in which we operate.

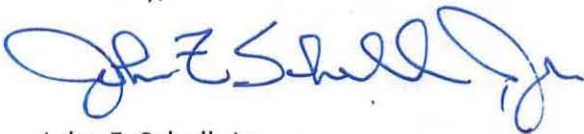
ConocoPhillips Alaska recommends that BLM approach the Coastal Plain EIS with diverse perspectives that include a practical element, based on exploration and development approaches that have proven to work historically in Alaska. At present, ConocoPhillips Alaska is active in the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPR-A) which is on the western side of the North

Slope. The NPR-A is separate and distinct from the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) which is located on the eastern side of the North Slope. In the NPR-A, ConocoPhillips Alaska has demonstrated that industry, through continuing technological advancements, can produce oil and gas resources with minimal environmental and subsistence impacts. This production provides benefits to the U.S. economy and energy security as well as providing significant economic benefit to the State of Alaska, the North Slope Borough (the municipal entity that provides services for North Slope communities) and ANCSA Native Corporations. Consistent with this trend, Congress has authorized BLM to pursue a Coastal Plain leasing program under the constraint that only up to a maximum of 2,000 surface acres be covered by production and support facilities. That maximum is only 0.1% of the Coastal Plain area.

The Coastal Plain EIS should take a clear look at the prospective benefits of both exploration and development, which include the value of better information about the subsurface hydrocarbon resources in the area. If production occurs, it would extend the life of existing infrastructure, most notably the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, and contribute significantly, under the revenue sharing prescribed by Congress, to the public revenue streams of the State of Alaska and the federal government. Much like development in the NPR-A, successful development of oil and gas resources in ANWR would also provide economic benefits to ANCSA Native Corporations and the North Slope Borough.

ConocoPhillips Alaska supports a thorough but efficient EIS process that is useful in informing government decisions on how best to move forward with leasing in the Coastal Plain area of ANWR. ConocoPhillips Alaska strongly believes that a methodical approach, following the constraints of governing laws and regulations, can lead to a balanced outcome that serves economic security and prosperity and minimizes environmental and subsistence impacts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John F. Schell, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John F. Schell, Jr.

JFS/pfm