



CoastalPlain\_EIS, BLM\_AK &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov&gt;

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**[EXTERNAL] Anchorage Chamber of Commerce**

1 message

**Bruce Bustamante** <bruce@anchoragechamber.org>

Wed, Feb 6, 2019 at 1:44 PM

To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov

RE: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas EIS

The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce is a collective voice for nearly 920 business members, representing over 50,000 employees and has been a voice for business for 103 years. For the last four decades, the Chamber has been an advocate for responsible resource development and management. Now the state of Alaska has another tremendous opportunity to boost its economy with the potential opening for oil and gas development in a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

The Anchorage Chamber Board of Directors has voted to support oil and gas development in ANWR. Now is the time to optimize this great opportunity that will secure energy needs for the future and create jobs for Americans. Oil and gas development in this small portion, no more than 2,000 acres of the 1.6 million acres (.01 percent), will help ensure America's energy security for decades and allow Alaska, and our nation as a whole, to realize the benefits that come from expanding energy production in Alaska.

It was found that 67 percent of Alaskans strongly support exploration of oil and gas exploration and production in a portion of ANWR in a recent public opinion survey conducted at the beginning of 2018 by Dittman Research.

Alaska's economic lifeline, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), is now running at three-quarters empty. New oil production from the coastal plain has the potential to reverse throughput in TAPS, a vital component of American energy infrastructure.

The oil and gas industry has proven itself to be a responsible steward of the Alaska environment. Due to improvements in technology, practices, and oversight, the oil industry has demonstrated over the past 40 years that North Slope energy development and environmental stewardship can, and do, coexist.

Energy production from this area has the potential to offset a decline in Lower 48 shale oil production, which is expected to commence in approximately a decade. Without limited oil development on the coastal plain, America will be forced to once again increase its reliance on foreign imports. With limited development in ANWR, America and Alaska can continue to grow the economy and reduce dependence on foreign oil.

For these reasons the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce wants to publicly and enthusiastically voice its support for resource development in ANWR. It's good for the United States and good for Alaska.

Sincerely,

Bruce

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Bruce Bustamante  
President & CEO  
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce

**ANWR Letter 4.pdf**

112K



1016 W Sixth Ave., Suite 303

Anchorage, AK 99501

June 6, 2018

Dear Nicole Hayes, Project Coordinator, BLM,

RE: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas EIS

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President