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MS. Nichole Hayes P.m.
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BLM
222 W. 7th AVE STOP #13
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Ms. Nichole Hayes, Project Manager
Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS
BLM Alaska State Office
222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

January 30, 2019

Dear Ms. Hayes,

Our company has been supporting the oil and gas markets since 1950. We have politicked for responsible development of Alaska's natural resources because that is practically all we have to make a living. While most states have a diverse economic base to provide jobs, we rely heavily on resource development.

Alaskans, by nature, are environmentalists because of their outdoor life style. When it comes to responsible resource development, they know how to get it done right. We strongly support the proposed oil and gas lease program for the non-wilderness, miniscule area of the ANWR Coastal Plain. Our thoughts for this include:

- Responsible oil and gas development in the small fraction of ANWR proposed for leasing 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.
- 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.
- Oil development on a fraction of the coastal plain would create thousands of jobs nationwide, generate billions of dollars in government revenue for public services, keep energy prices for American consumers affordable, and further improve energy security for decades into the future.
- Since the non-Wilderness coastal plain is less than 60 miles from TAPS, development of energy resources there is one of the most environmentally-sound ways to increase oil production in Alaska.

- Thanks to continuing 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. The industry has a proven track record of responsible development in sensitive areas, protecting the environment, wildlife and subsistence needs of local residents.
- Polls have consistently shown Alaskans overwhelmingly support responsible oil and gas development in the non-Wilderness portion of ANWR. There is no valid reason why we should not be allowed to access the world-class resources within just a miniscule fraction of the coastal plain.
- While renewable energy is a growing part of America's energy portfolio, it is still projected to account for a minority of American energy production in 2040. New oil and gas production will be required to power America's economy and can serve as a bridge until renewable energy becomes a dominant energy source decades into the future.
- The coastal plain was specifically identified by Congress, pursuant to Section 1002 of ANILCA, for its potential for oil and natural gas resources. Oil and gas from the Non-Wilderness portion of the coastal plain is an important resource for meeting our nation's energy demands and achieving energy dominance.

We must get past petty politics and the poor decisions that often arise from them. I urge you to consider my remarks and lead your team to author a fair and reasonable oil and gas lease program that will benefit every American Citizen.

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott Vierra
Business Development