

Alaska Trucking Association, Inc.

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The authoritative voice of the trucking industry in Alaska

February 11, 2019

Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS

Oral Testimony

BLM Alaska State Office

222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13

Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Coastal Plain Draft EIS

The Alaska Trucking Association is a not for profit 501(c)(3) trade association representing the trucking industry in Alaska. Our 200 member companies are trucking companies as well as vendors and suppliers. The trucking industry provides more than 12,000 jobs in Alaska and our vendors and suppliers provide thousands more.

The ATA supports the proposed oil and gas lease program that will allow limited activity within the non-wilderness coastal plain of ANWR for the following reasons:

The DEIS includes a wide range of alternatives which contain measures to avoid or mitigate surface impacts and minimize ecological disturbance throughout the program area.

Under the three development alternatives, the footprint of production and support facilities will be limited to no more than 2,000 surface acres of the 1.6 million-acre 1002 Area, which is the non-Wilderness portion of the refuge's coastal plain. That is equivalent to just 0.01 percent of ANWR's 19.3 million-acres.

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 Alaska Trucking Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on this very important issue that will affect all Alaskan's as well as our entire nation. We strongly support moving forward with the DEIS.

Sincerely,



Aves Thompson
Executive Director

