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[EXTERNAL] ANWR Coastal Plain 1002 Area Development1 message

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To: blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov

The United States needs a plan to explore for oil and gas in the 1002 area as soon as possible. If commercial quantities are discovered, we need to proceed with development as soon as possible.

Reasons for development of oil and gas resources in the 1002 area include:

- Responsible oil and gas development in the small fraction of ANWR proposed for leasing will help ensure America's energy security for decades.
- 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.
- Energy production from the non-Wilderness coastal plain has the potential to offset a decline in Lower 48 shale oil production, which is expected to commence in approximately a decade.
- 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.
- 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.
- Advances in technology have greatly reduced the footprint of development in the Arctic. As much as 60-plus square miles can now be developed from a single 12 to 14 acre gravel drill site.
- 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.

Continued production of oil and gas resources is necessary for the United States and world economies.

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