



October 16, 2019

Willow Project Manager Racheal Jones
Bureau of Land Management
BLM_AK_Willow_Comments@blm.gov
Submitted electronically

Subject: Support for Willow Project Alternative B and module Transfer Option 1

Dear Ms. Jones,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports Alternative B and module Transfer Option 1 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Willow project as the best balance between subsistence needs and socioeconomic benefits to the region and state.

Alternative B provides for a road connection back to the Alpine infrastructure and road connections to all the drill sites. Road connections are a requirement for safe and environmentally sound operations. Concern has been raised about potential effects that roads can have on subsistence activities, but caribou herds on the North Slope have continued to flourish with access roads in place. Alternative B would also reduce environmental impacts compared to the other alternatives by using less gravel fill, fresh water, and aircraft flights, while improving year-round access for local residents.

This \$5 billion dollar project would bring many financial benefits. The Fairbanks Chamber supports the development of high-paying jobs for Alaskans in the construction, production, and operations industries. Fairbanks-based companies such as Flowline Alaska, Greer Tank & Welding and Arctic Fire & Safety provide and/or manufacture critical supplies for projects such as this. The transportation industry including local companies such as Lynden, Colville, and Carlile are at the ready to provide the transportation needs to support further development. Our unions such as Laborers Local 942, Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 375 and our Operating Engineers 302, building & Construction trades are training the talent and looking for employment for their members. Our region stands ready to work on a project like Willow, which will translate into significant economic opportunities.

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Production from Willow will help maintain the integrity of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System at the estimated ~130,000 barrels per day during peak production. The estimated production rate from Willow would be about a 20% increase over current throughput, and will help this critical component of Alaska's infrastructure remain viable for decades.

The Oil & Gas industry has demonstrated responsible design, engineering, and development of their projects in a way that minimizes impacts on the environment, wildlife and subsistence activities, and maintains high standards for safety and emergency response activities. ConocoPhillips specifically has an excellent track record and a long history of operating responsibility and working with stakeholders on the North Slope and in the Arctic after 40 years in Alaska service.

Finally, the NPR-AA was designated by our Federal government for energy production, ie petroleum production. Allowing Willow in the NPR-A will begin the process of fulfilling the original intent of the land.

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce represents over 700 business members throughout Interior Alaska. We work to advocate for the best business environment, promote economic strength and growth for interior Alaska, and to develop the resources and networks enterprising people use to share knowledge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa Sharrah".

Marisa Sharrah
President/CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Dean".

Rebecca Dean
Board Chair