



September 6, 2017

Mr. Bud Cribley
DOI BLM – Alaska State Office
222 W 7th Ave
Mailstop 13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7500

RE: BLM call for comments for the 2017 NPR-A Lease Sale

Dear Mr. Cribley,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce strongly supports development and balanced management of Alaska's natural resources while protecting Alaska for future generations, including increased access to NPR-A for oil and gas exploration and development.

The newly-found potential of the Nanushuk play and the potentially large discovery at Smith Bay indicates NPR-A's energy reserves could have a positive economic impact for the State of Alaska. New industry activity will provide thousands of job opportunities, boost the local and state economy, and increase much needed flow to the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS).

The oil and gas industry has played a significant role in Fairbanks for over 40 years. Spending from this sector directly supports transportation, fabrication and logistics related to the industry's activity on the North Slope and accounts for thousands of both union and non-union jobs related to projects, operations and other activities in the industry. Perhaps the largest impact the oil & gas industry has on the economy comes through state spending on education, health and other public services. The State's budget that pays for these services is almost entirely supported by taxes and royalties paid by industry. The associated economic activity from this spending is very important to the Fairbanks economy.

The current land management plan for NPR-A is inconsistent with the primary purpose of the petroleum reserve and unnecessarily emphasizes preservation over multiple use. The 2013 Integrated Activity Plan for NPR-A unnecessarily prohibits leasing and development in much of Northeast NPR-A and potentially oil-rich lands adjacent to Teshekpuk Lake to protect subsistence resources. It is important to remember this is a petroleum reserve and these resources can be protected without closing areas to leasing.

The Fairbanks Chamber strongly believes that more federal lands should be made available for leasing on the North Slope to promote energy security and economic development. Companies in Alaska have demonstrated that NPR-A development can be done in a safe and environmentally sound manner. Opening highly-prospective areas of NPR-A to future oil and gas lease sales and ultimately opening the reserve to mineral entry would advance BLM's approach

EXECUTIVE PARTNERS

DIAMOND

Alaska Airlines
ExxonMobil
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Lockheed Martin
Mt. McKinley Bank
Ravn Alaska
Vivlamore Companies

PLATINUM

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.
ConocoPhillips
Denali State Bank
Doyon, Limited
Fred Meyer Stores
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Golden Heart Utilities
Kinross Fort Knox Mine

GOLD

Alaska Communications
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Design Alaska
Doyon Utilities LLC
First National Bank Alaska
MAC Federal Credit Union
Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo LLC
TOTE Maritime Alaska
Usibelli Coal Mine
WAL-MART Stores, Inc.
Wells Fargo Bank Alaska
Westmark Fairbanks Hotel &
Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge

SILVER

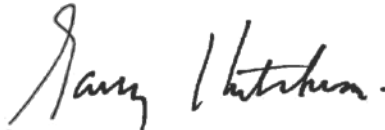
Alaska USA
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Flowline Alaska
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Tammy Randolph, Agent
Ed Randolph, Agent
Tanana Valley Clinic
TDL Staffing
Tower Hill Mines-Livengood Gold Project
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Verizon Wireless
Yukon Title Company

to energy development, which includes oil and gas, coal, strategic minerals and renewable sources. Development in these areas is critical to local communities, such as ours, and the overall economic health of the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Marisa Sharrah in black ink.

Marisa Sharrah
President & CEO
Fairbanks Chamber

Handwritten signature of Garry Hutchison in black ink.

Garry Hutchison
Board Chair
Fairbanks Chamber