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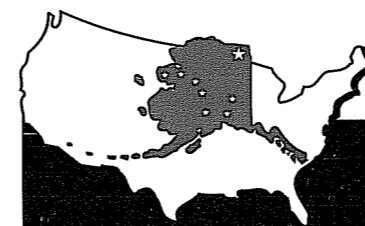


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Resource Review

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Historic breakthrough in Congress, ANWR support needed now

Thousands of faxes and phone calls needed to convince President Clinton and key negotiators

Propelled by historic back-to-back victories in the House and Senate this fall that put the Congress on record for the first time supporting oil development on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaskans are launching a full court press over the next six weeks to convince President Bill Clinton to compromise with Congress on a budget measure that would allow development in a small fraction of the refuge under strict environmental measures.

The most recent victory for Alaska came in the Senate late last month on a motion by Sen. Max Baucus, (D-MT), to strip the drilling provision from the GOP budget. The motion was killed by a 51-48 margin, preserving the ANWR provision in the budget.

The drilling provision is one of many items in the GOP budget package designed to balance the federal budget by 2002. Leasing of ANWR's 1.5 million-acre coastal plain would generate about \$2.6 billion, half of which would go to the federal treasury to help erase the deficit.

The budget reconciliation bill would not only open ANWR to drilling, it would cut agriculture subsidies, reform the welfare system, reduce spending on Medicare and Medicaid by \$452 billion



**ANWR
Timeline**

Kaktovik's George Tagarook (far left) works the ANWR issue in Washington, D.C., with Alaska Senate President Drue Pearce, House Speaker Gail Phillips, Mano Frey, Dan Kish, Debbie Reinwand, Brenda Itta-Lee and Oliver Leavitt.

Arctic Power Photo

and provide a \$245 billion tax cut.

Passage of the GOP budget has moved Congress toward a major confrontation with President Clinton who believes the budget cuts go far too deep and would hurt low income families and senior citizens. Additionally, Clinton has threatened to veto any budget measure that contains the ANWR provision.

House and Senate conferees are now resolving differences between budget measures passed by both chambers before a final package goes to the President later this month. The ANWR provision is to be in the compromise sent to the White House since both the

(Continued to page 4)

• **OCTOBER:** Senate and House pass budget packages which include provisions to open ANWR.

• **NOVEMBER:** House and Senate Conference Committees iron out differences between budget bills.

Clinton has vowed to veto any budget measure containing ANWR.

• **DECEMBER:** Clinton and GOP leadership may try to reach a compromise following veto. Outcome may not be known until Christmas.



Message from the Executive Director
by Becky L. Gay

Resource development takes more than legislation and regulation

RDC is formulating its legislative and administrative priorities in anticipation of the upcoming session. As state revenue decline becomes more evident, the collective will of individuals to advance sound development policies seems to be enhanced. For those of us working in resource politics, this is the "silver lining" around a cloud of state fiscal problems. Open minds and more interest in utilizing Alaska's vast natural resources will hopefully yield policies

encouraging exploration, development and investment in those resources and jobs for people who want to stay here.

Resource development takes long-term thinking, contrary to popular opinion. Now in its twentieth year, RDC obviously takes a long-term view, still working on issues it was founded upon, like the All-Alaska gas line, simultaneous with all the new evolving resource issues. RDC looks forward to a future of world-class, leading-edge technology advancement in resources while giving Alaskans jobs where they live. Is that so impossible? Not to us, but unthinkable to many, especially the opposition's camp.

Sound resource development takes more than legislation and regulation. It also takes education, starting earlier and continuing throughout life, teaching respect for others' work and the value of balance, both in the environment and in the workplace. A young student objecting to oil and gas development once gave me this solution to stopping those activities — "We'll just use more electricity and have electric cars instead of gas." It shocked me so much that I asked if anyone had ever told him where electricity came from, and it was apparent that he hadn't a clue. Moments like these glare in my mind when I get exasperated at the uphill battle for resource education and I truly believe we owe it to the future to teach our students better than that. RDC is doing its share of effort on those fronts, thanks to a very active and caring board of directors and a truly generous membership.

There is no question that everyone uses resources in their daily life whether

one admits or knows it. From the glasses you wear to the toilet paper you use, the basic material is either mined, grown or harvested from the sea. Resource development enhances your personal lifestyle. The odd thing is, many people refuse to see the fundamental connection between resource utilization, quality of life and a clean environment.

As RDC enters its third decade, the resource issues have never been so global and the Alaska perspective so positive. RDC stands proud of its role in helping shape the future of resource development in Alaska. Someone has to prove it can be done right and that is the promise of Alaska.

Dale Lindsey honored with prestigious award

RDC board member Dale R. Lindsey, President and CEO of Petro Marine Services, was the recipient of the William A. Egan Outstanding Alaskan Award recently at the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce 36th Annual Convention in Whitehorse.

To be selected for the prestigious award, one must have made substantial and continued contributions of statewide significance while working in the private sector. Lindsey was nominated by Thomas P. Gallagher and Paul A. Laird from BP.

His letter stated that "few Alaskans have contributed so much to Alaska over such a long period with so little acknowledgment."

U.S. House focuses on ESA

The Endangered Species Act is moving toward reauthorization in Congress.

Rep. John Shadegg (R-AZ) as well as Reps. Don Young and Richard Pombo (R-CA) have introduced important bills that attempt to protect private property as well as save species. Other congressmen have joined together with environmentalists to kill significant reforms and keep the ESA as it is today.

"The grassroots must rise up to support real reform in Congress," urged Chuck Cushman, Coordinator of the

Grassroots ESA Coalition. "We must not allow a sham bill to pass that pretends to reform the ESA," Cushman warned. "Insist that bills at a minimum include private property rights protection and a change in the definition of 'harm.'"

Cushman warned that without grassroots support, it is likely that Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Rep. Jim Saxton (R-NJ) and Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD) will block any meaningful reform this year.

The Resource Committee is likely

to mark up the Young-Pombo bill shortly. Saxton and Gilchrest are threatening to offer killer amendments that would gut the reform effort by eliminating key property rights provisions.

"The current ESA is a failure because it makes wildlife an enemy of landowners," said Cushman. "It creates disincentives that result in the elimination of wildlife habitat. No real conservation will occur until we protect property and make wildlife and landowners allies."

Cushman charged that the priority of Babbitt and his allies "is to expand governmental power and control, and they will do all they can to block property rights and 'harm' provisions in any new bill."

Saxton and Gilchrest have filed bills that imply reform but will largely keep the ESA working the way it currently is.

The Shadegg bill, HR 2364, is a completely non-regulatory, incentive-based alternative to the regulatory status quo. The current law relies entirely on punitive regulations and is devoid of positive conservation incentives. The Young-Pombo bill, HR 2275, reforms the ESA within the current regulatory structure. It does not allow the ESA to override all other laws and obligations and it attempts to protect habitat through incentives.

"The biggest problem facing reform of the ESA today is that the grassroots is not doing its job to push Congress toward change," said Cushman. "The green groups are beating up Congress to keep things the same while reform advocates are saying 'we've got a majority in Congress, let them do the work.' The fact is that on the ESA and many other issues, neither side has a majority."

Without an outburst of sustained activity, Congress may well pass a bill that includes a number of largely unimportant changes without really dealing with fundamental reforms like private property, compensation and the "harm" provision in the ESA, Cushman said. He is urging those who support reform to call and/or fax their congressman in support of the Shadegg and Young-Pombo bills. The House switchboard number is (202) 225-3121.

Timber salvage proposal needs support

(Continued from page 6)

est supervisor will decide the location and design of the salvage harvest units, the location and design of permanent and temporary roads and appropriate mitigation measures for all resources in the project area.

State and federal forest scientists have emphasized logging is necessary to restore the forest's health. They point out that fish streams, wildlife habitat and view sheds are in greater jeopardy from the aging spruce dying and falling down. They contend that salvage operations can be done properly and professionally to establish a healthy forest which has or will be deforested by the beetle. If no action is taken, the forest will die and become an unsightly graveyard of dead trees and grass, a habitat fit only for woodpeckers.

RDC board member Arvid Hall noted that salvaging the Peninsula's dead and dying timber would generate new economic activity and jobs. He stressed that a salvage plan, combined with reforestation techniques such as soil scarification and the planting of seedlings, would lead to a vibrant green forest in 30 years. On the other hand, letting nature take its course, the option preferred by environmentalists, could result in devastating wildfires and a forest that will likely evolve into grasslands void of evergreens for generations.

Environmental groups are motivating their members to flood the Forest

Service with comments demanding that a no-action alternative be adopted. In the Anchorage Daily News, letters to the editor have been running heavily against the proposed timber salvage with authors warning of massive clearcuts.

What is lost in the debate is the fact that the salvage proposal is targeted at dead or dying trees. Moreover, while the salvage harvest is not intended to stop the infestation, a logging and reforestation prescription would restore forest health in hard hit areas much faster than if nothing is done. Additionally, the proposed acreage to be harvested accounts for only a small fraction of the project area and the infested acreage.

Clearcuts would not occur near shorelines, view sheds and other sensitive areas. Selective cutting would prevail in these areas.

New roads built to reach harvest areas would diversify recreation opportunities and venues, allowing residents access to the high country for mountain biking, hiking and skiing.

RDC members are encouraged to respond immediately. Otherwise, the Forest Service may be compelled to choose a no action alternative if public comment runs heavily against salvaging the trees.

Please send your brief comments to: Larry Hudson, Forest Supervisor, Chugach National Forest, 3301 C Street, Suite 300, Anchorage, AK, 99503-3998.

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is Alaska's largest privately funded nonprofit economic development organization working to develop Alaska's natural resources in an orderly manner and to create a broad-based, diversified economy while protecting and enhancing the environment.

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Writer & Editor
Carl Portman



Forest Service solicits comments on proposed timber salvage actions

Environmentalists oppose salvage of beetle killed timber, support needed for harvests

The U.S. Forest Service is inviting the public to comment on proposed timber salvage operations aimed at beetle-infested forests in Chugach National Forest south of Anchorage.

The proposed timber harvests would target the eastern Kenai Peninsula in the Resurrection/Palmer Creek areas, as well as Sixmile Creek and the Seattle and Ingram Creek drainages near Turnagain Arm. Thousands of acres of spruce are dead and dying in these areas as a result of the spruce bark beetle.

Public involvement is a very important part of the Forest Service's environmental analysis of the proposed timber salvage proposal, according to Forest Supervisor Larry Hudson.

"I am personally committed to full public involvement before I make any decisions," said Hudson. "This summer our research specialist gathered data and made preliminary assessments so that we can present possible management actions to interested people for review and comment."

Public comment will be used to identify issues, develop project alternatives, update existing information and formulate mitigation measures. Hudson is requesting the public turn in comments by November 24.

The purpose and need for this project is to utilize infested trees which still have a value for several years after the beetle kills them. Over the next few years, salvage harvesting would occur near Turnagain Arm, extending from Portage westerly past the community of Hope. The entire project area encompasses approximately 181,500 acres of land in which up to 5,320 acres

would be harvested. The proposal also calls for 24 miles of road that would be available for future management and an undetermined number of miles of temporary road to be closed after harvest activities are completed. Approximately 41 million board feet of timber would be removed under the proposed action over the next five years.

The proposed harvest units were identified after extensive field reconnaissance of areas affected by the spruce bark beetle. Roads are being planned to access the harvest units to facilitate timber removal and provide for long-term management. The timber harvest planned for the project area will be accomplished through several salvage timber sales over a one to three year time span.

The Forest Service's proposal is the result of a new federal law that requires federal land managers to expedite the process for salvaging dead or dying trees and trees at risk of dying as a result of insects, disease or past fires.

The environmental assessments and biological evaluations now in progress will determine the feasibility of salvaging dead, dying and at risk trees. The assessments will evaluate a number of alternatives ranging from no-action to the 5,300-acre salvage harvest. If a harvest alternative is selected, the volume of timber harvested, logging methods and the location of harvest areas will likely be modified to protect key biological and social values such as wildlife habitat, soils, scenic quality, recreational and subsistence users, archeological resources and fisheries.

Lost in the debate

- *The purpose and need for this project is to utilize infested trees which still have a value for several years after the beetle kills them.*

- *The salvage proposal is targeted at dead or dying trees.*

- *While the salvage harvest is not intended to stop the infestation, a logging and reforestation prescription would restore forest health in hard hit areas much faster than if nothing is done.*

- *Fish streams, wildlife habitat and view sheds are in greater jeopardy from the aging spruce dying and falling down than from salvage operations that can be done properly and professionally to re-establish a healthy forest which has or will be deforested by the beetle.*

- *Salvage harvests would generate new economic activity and jobs.*

- *The proposed acreage to be harvested (5,320 acres) accounts for only a small fraction of the project area (181,000 acres) and the infested acreage (850,000 acres).*

- *Clearcuts would not occur near shorelines, view sheds and other sensitive areas. Selective cutting would prevail in these areas.*

- *New roads built to reach harvest areas would diversify recreation opportunities and venues, allowing residents access to high country for mountain biking, hiking and skiing.*

After all alternatives have been fully analyzed, a preferred alternative will be selected and identified in an environmental assessment released for public comment.

The decision to be made is if, where and how to salvage timber in the targeted project area consistent with Forest Plan management direction. If a harvest alternative is selected, the for-

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Thoughts from the President by Elizabeth Rensch

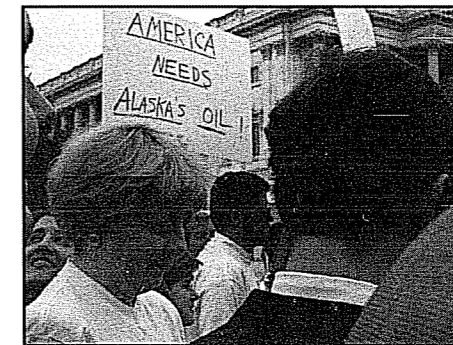
Alaskans rally in Washington for ANWR

This fall marked an historic accomplishment for Alaskans working to open the Coastal Plain of ANWR to environmentally-responsible oil and gas development. For the first time in history, the U.S. Congress took positive action supporting oil and gas exploration and development on the Coastal Plain, an area representing about eight percent of the 19 million-acre refuge.

The battle, however, is far from over as preservationists are confident President Clinton will veto the budget measure containing the ANWR provision. The President has indeed vowed to veto the massive budget bill and ANWR is one of a number of items he does not like. The key is to secure a post-veto compromise with Mr. Clinton — an agreement that will allow leasing, exploration and development to move forward, with appropriate measures to protect the environment. Unfortunately, the opposition is dead set against reaching any middle ground, so much work remains before Alaskans to convince the President to make the right decision and open the Coastal Plain. Certainly Mr. Clinton realizes that the right decision is often the most difficult and not always the most popular choice.

For now, the recent Alaska accomplishments on ANWR are extraordinary. One year ago the prospects for opening ANWR were nil, but with the revolution in Congress and Alaska's congressional delegation assuming key, powerful leadership positions, the window of opportunity swung wide open.

Rep. Don Young and Sens. Frank Murkowski and Ted Stevens designed a strategy and obtained the votes to gain congressional approval of legislation calling for lease sales on the Coastal Plain. Arctic Power, led by RDC's former Deputy Director Debbie Reinwand and RDC board member Roger Herrera,



Alaskans supporting oil and gas development in ANWR demonstrate at the nation's capitol.

worked closely with the delegation on the strategy and implemented an effective nationwide campaign targeting key congressional districts to garner support for Alaska.

Alaska legislators, led by Senate President Drue Pearce and House Speaker Gail Phillips, and including Reps. Mike Navarre, Judith Salo, Mark Hanley, Gene Therriault, as well as Sens. Dave Donley and Fred Zharoff, covered the capitol beat on a number of occasions, meeting decision-makers, testifying at committee hearings and articulating Alaska's position before an often hostile national press.

Governor Tony Knowles and his administration have focused directly on the Democratic White House and have made a number of important visits to Capitol Hill. Alaska labor leaders, including the Teamster's Jerry Hood and the AFL-CIO's Mano Frey, have also worked hard advancing Alaska's position. North Slope Inupiat Eskimos Jacob Adams, Oliver Leavitt, Mayor George Ahmaogak, Sr., Brenda Iltta-Lee, Delbert Rexford and other residents of the Arctic also descended on Washington to let the President know just where they stand on this issue.

RDC, the Alliance, the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, the Alaska State

"Alaskans from all sectors and political persuasions have pitched in to help. The team effort is impressive and such wide support is enjoyed only because Alaskans know the track record of oil development on the North Slope and the industry's ability to protect the environment while providing energy and revenues to both Alaska and the nation."

Chamber of Commerce, Alaska Miners Association and the Alaska Forest Association have all supported the effort by mobilizing their memberships to write letters, secure resolutions and educate the public and key business leaders Outside on the merits of opening ANWR. RDC itself has been working the issue for more than 10 years and has a number of dedicated board members and former staff working directly with Arctic Power to push through an Alaska victory.

Alaskans from all sectors and political persuasions have pitched in to help. The team effort is impressive and such wide support is enjoyed only because Alaskans know the excellent track record of oil development on the North Slope and the industry's ability to protect the environment while providing energy and revenues to Alaska and the nation.



Actor Ted Danson, speaking against oil drilling in ANWR at an opposition press conference, is confronted by North Slope Inupiat Eskimos Brenda Itta-Lee and Oliver Leavitt. (Arctic Power Photo)

ANWR Support needed now!

(Continued from page 1)

House and Senate went on record favoring development.

Barring a last minute settlement with the White House on Medicaid and Medicare, Clinton will likely veto the budget. The GOP leadership in the House and Senate would then meet with the President to fashion a compromise, a process which could be extended to Christmas.

The post-veto negotiations would be a critical phase for Alaska's ANWR provision. Some fear it could be used as a bargaining chip on bigger national issues.

What is needed most from RDC members and others are phone calls and faxes to the White House from Alaska and the Lower 48, indicating strong support for the ANWR provision. Thousands of faxes are needed to offset a major national letter-writing campaign recently launched by the opposition. Faxes and phone calls do not have to address the budget, but should state complete support for ANWR drilling.

In addition, please contact the offices of House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Budget Chairman John Kasich, Majority Leader Dick Armey, Majority Whip Tom DeLay, Senator Bob Dole and Senate Budget Chairman Pete Domenici.

It is critical that phone calls and faxes deluge the White House and Congress for the next six to eight weeks in favor of drilling. Get your friends, relatives and business associates to respond now.

Following are the numbers and fax lines to call:

White House public opinion line (request an operator) (202)-456-1414.

White House fax line
(202)-456-6220

House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA)
Ph: 225-4501, Fax: 225-4656

Congressman John Kasich (R-OH)
Ph: 225-5355, No Fax Available

Congressman Dick Armey (R-TX)
Ph: 225-7772, Fax: 225-7614

Congressman Tom DeLay (R-TX)
Ph: 225-5951

Senator Bob Dole (R-KS)
Ph: 224-6521, Fax: 228-1245

Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM)
Ph: 224-6621, Fax: 224-3844

Senator Trent Lott (R-MS)
Ph: 224-6253, Fax: 224-2262

Native vote supports drilling

Refusing to take a neutral position on the ANWR issue, the Alaska Federation of Natives, the state's largest Native organization, recently voted 4,940 to 2,828 to endorse oil and gas development on Alaska's Coastal Plain.

The vote came last month in Anchorage at AFN's annual convention after Interior Department Assistant Secretary Ada Deer urged delegates to support a resolution that would adopt a neutral stand on the issue. But after several hours of heated debate, delegates voted against Deer's appeal by nearly a 2-1 margin and then passed a measure favoring development.

Inupiat Eskimo Jacob Adams of Barrow argued that drilling on federal and Native lands can be done without harming caribou or the environment, and that development is necessary for economic sustainability, especially in cash-poor rural villages.

Whaling captain Arnold Brower, Jr., insisted that development is necessary to improve living standards throughout Bush Alaska.

"We've managed the Arctic caribou and we've managed the bowhead whale," said Brower. "The caribou is what we have lived on, too."

Residents of the North Slope, including the village of Kaktovik, which is located on the Coastal Plain, bristled at the idea that drilling would sacrifice the refuge. Delbert Rexford noted that Inupiat-run companies would play a big role in any development and some of it likely would occur on Native lands.

"There are assumptions that we are going to destroy the renewable resources of our brothers and sisters to the south of us," he said. "We are the best stewards of the land."

Eskimos plead case in Washington

"Through our local planning and zoning and other regulatory authority, we have demonstrated our commitment and ability to protect our lands, the caribou and the other animals on which we depend. We will allow no harm to this country of ours. What harm comes to this country comes from those who deny us our rights as the Native people of this place. It comes from those who would make our homelands into a desolation and call that desolation their 'Wilderness.' These lands should not be made the exclusive playground for a few rich eco-tourists." George Tagarook, Subsistence hunter, fisherman, Kaktovik, AK

A group of Alaska Inupiat Eskimos, some of whom live within the Coastal Plain of ANWR, traveled to Washington last month to urge President Clinton to support limited oil exploration and development in ANWR.

The group, which included Eskimo whaling captains, subsistence hunters, a former health official, fishermen and a Native women's leader, said ANWR leasing was essential for helping Native Alaskans escape from Third World living conditions.

"The Inupiat Eskimos are the forgotten people of the entire ANWR leasing debate," said Congressman Don Young, Chairman of the House Resources Committee. "While the professional environmental organizations have distorted this issue at all levels and received an overwhelming majority of the media attention, the Eskimos — the people who live in ANWR, and who will benefit the most from oil exploration — have been ignored."

"Without jobs, tax revenues and economic activity from oil and gas development, the future of the people living in the North Slope Borough is frightening," said Mayor George Ahmaogak, Sr., a subsistence hunter and whaling captain from Barrow.

Mayor Ahmaogak pointed out that 30 years ago his people lived in poverty. "Today, tax revenues from oil development permits our Borough government to provide needed public services. These services include roads, water and sanitation, housing, health care, fire and police protection, search and rescue services and schools for our children."

Ahmaogak explained that the Inupiat way of life has been shaped by their cultural and spiritual dependence upon animals. He said his people are defined by their relationship to the wildlife that sustains them.

"We have had more than two decades of successful coexistence with oil development at Prudhoe Bay," Ahmaogak noted. "Our people are convinced that responsible leasing and development is compatible with our land and environment. After more than 27 years on the North Slope, the oil industry has demonstrated its ability to operate without damage to our wildlife or land."

Brenda Itta-Lee, former Native health planner for the borough, fears that without jobs, a tax base and an active economy, the Inupiat living in the Arctic will be forced to go back to live once again in poverty and Third World living conditions.

"Mothers cannot keep their children healthy without proper sanitation," she said. "Our children cannot grow up to be productive members of society without a decent education. Our Elders cannot live in dignity without decent health care. This is what opening the Coastal Plain means to our people."

"We will not allow harm to our land," echoed George Tagarook, a subsistence hunter and fisherman from the ANWR village of Kaktovik.

"Through our local planning and zoning and other regulatory authority, we have demonstrated our commitment and ability to protect our lands, the caribou and the other animals on which we depend," Tagarook pointed out. "We will allow no harm to this country

of ours."

Vietnam veteran, whaling captain and subsistence hunter Oliver Leavitt warned that the Inupiat Eskimos and other Alaska residents will suffer if Clinton blocks ANWR development.

"If the Coastal Plain is not opened, my people — and most of Alaska's Native people — will suffer. State revenues and Borough taxes on oil are being put to work to provide hope and self-determination. Many Alaskans still live in areas in Third World conditions." Leavitt pointed out that Alaska has the highest number of outhouses and "honey bucket" sanitation systems of any state.

"Without jobs and a local economy, the best and brightest of our children will have to move south to find jobs and seek a better way of life. This migration would ensure the destruction of our traditional culture. We are asking Congress to give us hope and a future."

Fenton Rexford pointed out that his village, Kaktovik, is the only community located within the Coastal Plain.

"Our people depend on caribou, whales, seals and other wildlife to subsist. We want the ability to provide our people with the basic necessities of life."

Rexford reminded Washington that running water and flush toilets are basic public services which are taken for granted by most Americans, but not available in most Arctic villages.

"Honey buckets are still the only sanitary facilities available in my home at Kaktovik and six other villages on the North Slope," noted Rexford, the Inupiat Chair of the U.S. Secretary of Interior's Regional Subsistence Council.