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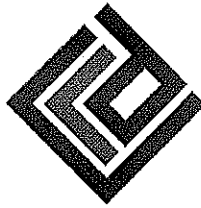
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Governor Bill Walker



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

## BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, November 2, 2017

1. Call to order – Tom Maloney, RDC Executive Committee Member
2. Self Introductions
3. Head Table Introductions
4. Staff Report – Marleanna Hall, Executive Director
5. Program

**A New Look at North Slope Oil and Gas Potential**  
David Houseknecht, Project Chief, Energy Resources Program for Alaska  
U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA

Next Meeting: Wednesday-Thursday, November 15-16  
Dena'ina Convention Center  
**RDC's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Alaska Resources Conference**  
Visit [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org) for the latest agenda updates

Sign up for RDC e-news online!  
This breakfast packet and presentation may be found online at:

**akrdc.org**



TOURISM



FISHERIES



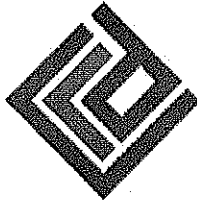
OIL & GAS



MINING



FORESTRY



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

## ACTION ALERT

### U.S. Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee hearing on ANWR Bill **Speak Up for ANWR!**

#### Overview

It's not too late to express your support for opening a small fraction of ANWR to responsible oil and gas development. Although the hearing on this issue is occurring this morning in Washington, D.C., the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will take comments for inclusion into the record for an additional two weeks.

The committee is considering an opportunity to include a drilling provision in a budget reconciliation bill by U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski that would allow limited oil and natural gas activity within the non-wilderness coastal plain of ANWR.

#### Action Requested:

Washington, D.C. needs to hear from Alaskans now. Supportive comments from Alaskans in the official committee record are vital and can make a difference. Please send a brief email to: [fortherecord@energy.senate.gov](mailto:fortherecord@energy.senate.gov). It is urgent Alaskans take action now.

Please address your statement to: "Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee." Also, please send a copy to [annie\\_hoefler@energy.senate.gov](mailto:annie_hoefler@energy.senate.gov).

Please reference: **For Record of November 2, 2017 Hearing**

For additional information on the hearing, please visit:  
<https://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/11/full-committee-hearing>

#### Points to consider in your comments:

- Polls have consistently shown Alaskans overwhelmingly support responsible oil and gas development in the non-wilderness portion of ANWR. There is no valid reason why we should not be allowed to access the world-class resources within just a tiny fraction of the coastal plain.
- The proposed ANWR provision would allow development of no more than 2,000 acres of the 1.5 million acres of the Arctic coastal plain – part of the non-wilderness portion of ANWR's 19 million acres. That is equivalent to just 0.01 percent of the entire refuge.
- Responsible oil and gas development in this fraction of ANWR will help ensure America's energy security for decades and allow Alaska – and our nation as a whole – to realize the benefits that come from expanding energy production in Alaska.
- While renewable energy is a growing part of America's energy portfolio, it is still projected to account for a minority of American energy production in 2040. New oil and gas production will be required to power America's economy and can serve as a bridge until renewable energy becomes a dominant energy source decades into the future.

- Energy production from ANWR has the potential to offset a decline in Lower 48 shale oil production, which is expected to commence in approximately a decade. Without limited oil development on the coastal plain, America will be forced to once again increase its reliance on foreign imports. With limited development in ANWR, America and Alaska can continue to grow the economy and reduce dependence on foreign oil.
- The U.S. Geological Survey estimates the 1002 Area is North America's greatest prospect for conventional onshore oil production, with a mean likelihood of containing 10.4 billion barrels of oil and 8.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, as well as a reasonable chance of economically producing 16 billion barrels of oil.
- Alaska's economic lifeline, the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline System (TAPS), is now running at three-quarters empty. New oil production from ANWR 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, keep energy prices for American consumers affordable, and further improve energy security for decades into the future.
- Since the ANWR 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.
- Thanks to continuing improvements in technology, practices, and oversight, the oil industry has demonstrated over the past 40 years that North Slope energy development and environmental stewardship can and do coexist. The industry has a proven track record of responsible development in sensitive areas, protecting the environment, wildlife and subsistence needs of local residents.

**Please respond today!**

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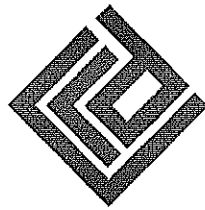
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Dave Cruz  
Mike Ferris  
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Gideon Garcia  
Ricky Gease  
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Teresa Imm  
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Thomas Krzewinski  
John Lau  
Tom Lovas  
Thomas Mack  
John MacKinnon  
Stephanie Madsen  
Karen Matthias  
Joey Merrick  
James Mery  
Lisa Parker  
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Shannon Price  
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# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

October 31, 2017

U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Chairwoman, Senator Lisa Murkowski  
804 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: For the Record of November 2, 2017 Hearing

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is writing to express its strong support for the proposed measure that would allow limited oil and gas activity within the non-wilderness coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

RDC is an Alaska non-profit business association comprised of individuals and companies from state's oil and gas, mining, forest products, fisheries and tourism industries. RDC's membership also includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor and industry-support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

Alaskans statewide strongly support oil and gas exploration and development in the non-wilderness coastal plain. In fact, polling has consistently shown more than 70 percent of Alaskans support development of energy resources beneath the 1002 area. Local residents and the Inupiat people who actually live adjacent to the 1002 area also support development.

RDC is advocating for Alaska's and, indeed, our nation's interests in supporting the opening of a tiny fraction of the coastal plain to responsible oil and gas exploration and development. In 1980, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act expanded the refuge, but in a compromise set aside 1.5 million acres of the coastal plain for potential drilling. The provision before the Committee today would allow development of only 2,000 acres of the coastal plain, which itself represents a very small portion of the 19-million acre refuge.

With advances in technology, it is possible to develop the coastal plain's energy reserves while directly utilizing on a tiny fraction of the area. Moreover, such development can be accomplished without significant disturbance to wildlife. In fact, over the past 40 years of North Slope oil production, wildlife populations have grown or remained stable. One example at Prudhoe Bay shows the central arctic caribou population has grown from 5,000 animals in 1970 to more than 66,000 animals today.

Oil development in the 1002 area would provide a safe and secure source of oil for the nation for decades. It would create tens of thousands of jobs throughout the country and refill the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), existing critical energy infrastructure that is currently operating at only one-fourth capacity. Since the ANWR coastal plain is only several miles from existing North Slope energy infrastructure and less than 60 miles from TAPS, development of energy reserves there would be one of the most environmentally-sound ways to increase oil production in Alaska.

Despite robust oil production in the Lower 48 states today, America will require new supplies of energy from Alaska in the coming decades. Energy production from ANWR will be key to offsetting a projected decline in Lower 48 shale oil production, which is expected to occur in the next decade. Otherwise, America will be forced to once again increase its reliance on foreign oil. With new oil and gas production from ANWR, America can continue to grow its economy and further reduce dependence on foreign imports.

With regard to renewable energy, RDC acknowledges that wind, solar, and other alternative forms of energy are a growing part of America's energy portfolio. While RDC fully supports renewable energy, we also recognize that new oil and gas production will be required to power America's economy and security needs for decades into the future. In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates renewable energy will

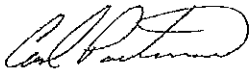


still account for a minority of America's energy production in 2040. New oil and gas production can serve as a bridge until renewables are established as a dominant energy source well into the future.

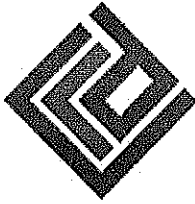
It is important to recognize that limited oil and gas exploration and development on the coastal plain of ANWR is consistent with the intent of Congress with regard to Alaska statehood. Alaska became a state based on the congressional intent that through development of its natural resources it would be able to sustain its economy and not become a ward of the federal government. Early statehood bills failed, and ultimately it was the discovery of oil that convinced Congress Alaska could sustain itself as a state.

In conclusion, RDC strongly supports opening a limited area of the coastal plain of ANWR to oil and gas exploration and development. Such action would create thousands of jobs, stimulate the economy, reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, and generate much-needed ongoing revenues to the federal government. Moreover, responsible energy development on the North Slope can and does coexist with the environment, wildlife, and subsistence needs of local residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carl Portman".

Carl Portman  
Deputy Director



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

## ACTION ALERT

### Call for comments for Nanushuk Project Environmental Impact Statement Comment Deadline: Extended to November 14, 2017

#### Overview

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Nanushuk Project, proposed by Armstrong Energy, LLC. Armstrong's proposed project includes constructing and operating infrastructure and facilities to produce and transport oil to the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline System (TAPS). Armstrong anticipates drilling at three sites 52 miles west of Deadhorse to accommodate up to 146 production and injection wells.

The DEIS covers various alternatives, including the No Action Alternative and the Applicant's Proposal, which includes building gravel pads, roads, pipelines and production infrastructure on the site. The project as proposed by Armstrong would include an all-season gravel road between a Kuparuk drill site and the proposed Nanushuk facilities and a central processing facility. The road would be 13-miles long and connect to 11.9 miles of new gravel infield roads to drill sites Two and Three. The total footprint of the project under the Applicant's Proposal is approximately 272 acres.

The company, which is partnering with Repsol SA, describes its new field in the Pikka Unit on state land near the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska as the largest onshore U.S. conventional oil discovery in 30 years. The field is expected to hold at least 1.2 billion barrels of oil and produce up to 120,000 barrels per day. First oil could begin three to four years after the Corps permitting issuance, depending on when season permits are issued.

A 45-day comment period is now underway and a series of public hearings will be held across the state. Comment deadline is Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. For additional information, visit:  
<http://www.NanushukEIS.com/>

#### Action Requested:

Please participate in the comment period for this important project by submitting comments on the DEIS, specifically supporting Alternative 2, the Applicant's Proposed Action.

**Comments via U.S. Postal Service:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CEPOA-RD, Ms. Ellen Lyons, 2175 University Avenue, Suite 201E, Fairbanks, AK 99709

**Email:** [Ellen.H.Lyons@usace.army.mil](mailto:Ellen.H.Lyons@usace.army.mil)

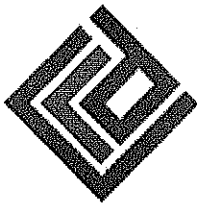
**Online:** <http://nanushukeis.commentinput.com/?id=UpCx2>

#### Points to consider in your comments:

- The \$5 billion Nanushuk prospect is an important and positive development for Alaska and could be one of the most significant discoveries on the North Slope since the discovery of the Alpine and Kuparuk oil fields. The Corps should approve Alternative 2, the Applicant's Proposed Action, and allow the project to move forward.

- Alaska's economic lifeline, TAPS, is now running at three-quarters empty. The Nanushuk project has the potential to produce up to 120,000 barrels of oil per day, significantly increasing TAPS throughput and revenues to the State of Alaska.
- State and local spending of taxes and royalties paid by the oil and gas industry directly creates jobs in the public sector and indirectly creates jobs throughout the private sector.
- The project would generate significant long-term business and economic activity and up to 600 North Slope construction jobs for Alaskans. In addition, 60 direct jobs would be created in Anchorage and one to three rigs supporting development for five years each would generate 120 to 150 jobs per rig, and more through fabrication, logistics, and indirect jobs. For each direct oil industry job, 20 additional jobs are generated in the Alaska economy.
- The Nanushuk project is located near existing industry infrastructure, minimizing potential environmental impact.
- Thanks to continuing improvements in technology, practices, and oversight, the oil industry has demonstrated that North Slope energy development and environmental stewardship can and do coexist.
- Industry has a proven track record of responsible development in environmentally-sensitive areas, protecting the environment, wildlife and subsistence needs of local residents.

**Deadline Tuesday, November 14, 2017**



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

## ACTION ALERT

Call for comments for the Liberty Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
**Comment Deadline: November 18, 2017**

### Overview

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Liberty Project, proposed by Hilcorp Alaska, LLC. Liberty is a light-oil reservoir in nearshore federal waters with an estimated 150-330 million barrels of oil in place. Peak production of between 60,000 and 70,000 barrels per day is projected within two years of initial production. The field is located 15 miles east of Prudhoe Bay.

Hilcorp proposes constructing an artificial gravel island about six miles offshore in 19 feet of water that is optimally located to minimize drilling and production risks. The outer perimeter of the 9-acre island would be armored with concrete blocks and steel sheetpile, using proven technology to protect it from ice pressure and storm surges. The island would be similar to the four oil and gas producing islands currently in operation in state waters of the Beaufort Sea – Spy Island, Northstar Island, Endicott Island, and Oooguruk Island. The island will be used for wells, production facilities, a camp, utilities, and a dedicated area for a relief-well. To minimize its environmental footprint, no permanent road or causeway would connect it to the mainland.

Oil would be transported to shore via a subsea pipeline, then through a newly constructed 1.5-mile onshore pipeline connecting to the Badami pipeline and eventually to the trans-Alaska pipeline. The subsea pipeline would be a pipe-within-a-pipe with a 12-inch diameter inner pipe and a 16-inch diameter outer pipeline similar to installations at the offshore Oooguruk and Nikaitchuq fields. The marine segment would be 5.6 miles in length, installed during winter and buried deeply in the subsea floor, safe from ice.

The rigorous multi-year permitting process for Liberty has addressed concerns raised during previous comment periods. Approximately 60 federal, state, and local permits and authorizations are required before the project can move forward. The latest DEIS at 1,270 pages is the result of decades of study and research.

Hilcorp has majority ownership in Liberty with BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc., and AEX ASRC Exploration as partners. Hilcorp would be the operator.

The comment period is now underway and a series of public hearings will be held. The comment deadline is Saturday, November 18. For additional information: [boem.gov/hilcorp-liberty/](http://boem.gov/hilcorp-liberty/)

### Action Requested:

Please submit comments urging BOEM to approve the Proposed Action in the DEIS and allow the Liberty project to move forward. In addition, please present brief testimony at one of the upcoming public hearings supporting the project.

**Public Hearings:** All times 7:00-10:00 PM

Nuiqsut:	Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kisik Community Center	Utqiagvik:	Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Inupiat Heritage Center
Fairbanks	Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Westmark Hotel	Anchorage:	Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Dena'ina Center
Kaktovik	Oct. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Kaktovik Community Center			

**Submit written comments:**

Online: [boem.gov/hilcorp-liberty/](http://boem.gov/hilcorp-liberty/) or Post to [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov)

Search field: BOEM-2015-0068

**Points to consider in your comments:**

- BOEM should approve the Proposed Action in the DEIS and allow the Liberty project to move forward. Liberty is an important project for Alaska as it will produce an estimated 60,000 to 70,000 barrels of oil per day, creating hundreds of new jobs, and providing royalty payments to the State of Alaska, as well as tax revenue to the North Slope Borough.
- Alaska's economic lifeline, TAPS, is now running at three-quarters empty. Liberty will increase TAPS throughput, helping to keep it operating longer and more efficiently.
- State and local spending of taxes and royalties paid by the oil and gas industry directly creates jobs in the public sector and indirectly creates jobs throughout the private sector. The project would generate significant long-term business and economic activity. For each direct oil industry job, 20 additional jobs are generated in the Alaska economy.
- The Liberty production island will be well-protected from the polar ice pack, sheltered by a belt of offshore barrier islands.
- The Liberty project builds upon more than 30 years of proven technology and safe operation in the shallow waters of the Beaufort Sea. Artificial islands in the Beaufort Sea date back to the mid-1970s. In the last 40 years, 18 islands have been responsibly constructed for exploration and development of oil and gas.
- The offshore Liberty pipeline will be buried in the subsea floor. It will include automatic leak detection and temperature-monitoring technology, proven technology utilized on existing production islands in the region.
- The rigorous multi-year permitting process for Liberty has addressed the concerns that were raised during the previous comment period. Approximately 60 federal, state, and local permits and authorizations are required before the project can move forward.
- Hilcorp has committed to signing a Conflict Avoidance Agreement with local whaling groups to engage with the whalers to protect subsistence activities.

**Deadline Saturday, November 18, 2017**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 18, 2017

Contact: Marleanna Hall  
(907)276-0700

**Group forms to fight anti-development initiative**

Anchorage, AK – A new group has formed to fight the anti-development effort calling itself “Stand for Salmon”. The new, pro-Alaska group opposing the measure, “Stand for Alaska,” is co-chaired by members representing diverse interests in Alaska:

- Aaron Schutt, Doyon, Limited
- Marleanna Hall, Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.
- Joey Merrick, Alaska Laborers Local 341

Curtis Thayer, president and CEO of the Alaska Chamber, will serve as Stand for Alaska’s treasurer.

The group formed to begin pushing back on the false narrative that current laws and regulations fail to adequately protect salmon. Instead, Stand for Alaska will work to inform fellow Alaskans of the real dangers of the potential ballot initiative, namely the creation of a job-killing, community-damaging, regulatory nightmare that would not only hurt the state’s ability to develop many of its natural resources, but would likely do nothing to improve fish protections.

Co-chair Aaron Schutt: “As the state’s largest private land owner, this initiative, if passed, will prevent Doyon from developing the vast resources that we received under ANCSA, and will destroy our ability to create a sustainable socioeconomic future for Alaska Native people.”

Co-chair Marleanna Hall: “Without question, this ballot initiative is the most serious threat to Alaska’s economy in state history. We support the State of Alaska immediately defending its decision to deny certification. The initiative will not only hamper, halt, or even deny responsible resource development projects, it will also impact community development across the state.”

A recent legal analysis of the proposed initiative shows that newly created regulations would lead to the following negative consequences:

- Prudhoe Bay (and likely all Alaska oilfields) would have been impossible to permit or construct if this initiative was in place during concept development or planning for oilfield startup. In other words, the terms of the proposed ballot measure would put future energy projects in peril.

- Construction of airport runways, roads, wastewater treatment plants, and other critical infrastructure would become much more difficult, if not impossible, under the terms of the proposed ballot measure.

Stand for Alaska organizers are hopeful the State of Alaska will appeal the latest legal ruling on the ballot initiative's constitutionality to the Alaska Supreme Court. In the event the initiative is certified for the ballot, Stand for Alaska will take its message statewide, working tirelessly to inform Alaska voters of the hidden dangers of this deeply flawed ballot initiative.

Paid for by Stand for Alaska, 121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 250, Anchorage, AK 99503.

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www.calistacorp.com



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development



AEDC  
Anchorage Economic  
Development Corporation



ALASKA CHAMBER



**the Alliance**



October 16, 2017

The Honorable Byron Mallott  
Lieutenant Governor of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: Appeal of ruling on Ballot Initiative 17FSH2

Dear Lieutenant Governor Mallott:

The undersigned broad coalition of entities, with very diverse interests, write regarding the ballot initiative titled "An Act providing for protection of wild salmon and fish and wildlife habitat" (Initiative 17FSH2).

Last month, with a thorough legal opinion from the Attorney General's (AG) office, you concluded this initiative was unconstitutional, a decision this coalition supported. Stand for Salmon, through Trustees for Alaska, appealed the State's denial of its application 17FSH2. On October 9<sup>th</sup>, Alaska Superior Court Judge Mark Rindner ruled against your decision for denial, a ruling this group does not agree with.

On that basis, this coalition urges you to appeal Judge Rindner's ruling and send a strong message that the State will vigorously defend the decision that this initiative is unconstitutional.

This coalition believes the initiative would be detrimental to responsible resource development, including Alaska Native interests, and efforts to build and maintain community infrastructure, among many other concerns. The measure will be particularly harmful on rural Alaska, and the people who live there.

As has been said before, the intent to safeguard Alaska's salmon fisheries is an objective we share and it is why we support Alaska's existing rigorous and science-based regulatory system. Shutting down economic and community development is a disproportionate response to a problem that doesn't exist.

As a coalition that includes urban and rural Alaskans, and businesses and associations representing tens of thousands of jobs for our state's citizens, we cannot overstate how important it is to have consistent regulatory and permitting processes.

This coalition knows community and resource development projects in Alaska can be and are done responsibly, with a strong focus on protecting the environment, cultural activities, and wildlife, while providing good-paying jobs, quality of life, and opportunities for people to remain in their communities.

Instead, this initiative would likely cause costly delays for community projects like airport expansions and village wastewater facility upgrades. It could ultimately halt even the smallest of projects. Further, the added



costs of the bill, while still unknown, will likely deepen our State's fiscal crisis. The added time to resource agencies, as well as permit applicants, would increase uncertainty and cost for development opportunities without a corresponding benefit to fish habitat.

Given the issues we have raised above, we implore you to appeal Judge Rindner's ruling as soon as possible, and demonstrate to Alaskans that the State will proactively protect the interests of those who will be adversely impacted by the initiative.

Sincerely,

Curtis Thayer, President & CEO  
Alaska Chamber

Owen Graham, Executive Director  
Alaska Forest Association

Deantha Crockett, Executive Director  
Alaska Miners Association

Kara Moriarty, President & CEO  
Alaska Oil and Gas Association

Rebecca Logan, General Manager  
Alaska Support Industry Alliance

Aves Thompson, Executive Director  
Alaska Trucking Association

Jeremy Price, State Director  
Americans for Prosperity, Alaska

Bill Popp, President  
Anchorage Economic Development Corp.

John MacKinnon, Executive Director  
Associated General Contractors of Alaska

Andrew Guy, President & CEO  
Calista Corporation

Sophie Minich, President & CEO  
Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

Karen Matthias, Executive Director  
Council of Alaska Producers

John Binkley, President  
Cruise Lines International Association Alaska

Aaron Schutt, President & CEO  
Doyon Limited

Neil MacKinnon, President  
First Things First Alaska Foundation

Marisa Sharrah, President & CEO  
Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce

Crystal Nygard, CEO  
Mat-Su Business Alliance

Marleanna Hall, Executive Director  
Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Bill Walker, Governor  
Jahna Lindemuth, Attorney General  
Elizabeth Bakalar, Assistant Attorney General  
Commissioner Sam Cotten, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Andy Mack, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Larry Hartig, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

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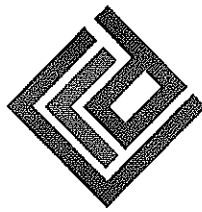
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U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan  
Congressman Don Young  
Governor Bill Walker



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

October 17, 2017

Water Docket, Environmental Protection Agency  
Mail Code 28221T  
Attn.: Docket #EPA-R10-OW-2017-0369  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

*Submitted via email to: ow-docket@epa.gov*

Re: Docket #EPA-R10-OW-2017-0369

To Whom It May Concern:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) is writing to support the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Proposed Determination on the Pebble Project in Southwest Alaska, Docket #EPA-R10-OW-2017-0369.

RDC is an Alaskan business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism and fisheries industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native Corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

A preemptive decision, prior to permit or project application and completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, is unacceptable, whether it be approval or denial of any project in any industry.

The pre-emptive Proposed Determination was a clear overreach and an attempt to assess the effects of a potential mining project, without the project plans. The EPA's proposal to withdraw the pre-emptive decision will allow the project to be fully evaluated after project plans are put forward.

RDC recognizes that withdrawal of the Proposed Determination does not remove the EPA from the process, it only rights a wrong – removal of the pre-emptive decision.

## Alaska's economy depends on responsible resource development

As the Alaskan economy is dependent on natural resource development, including mining, it is vital to have predictable and efficient federal and state permitting processes that are based on sound science. Article VIII, Section I of the Alaska Constitution mandates "the settlement of Alaska's land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest," to encourage economic prosperity for Alaskans. RDC is concerned the proposed rule will impact the ability of its membership to responsibly develop Alaska's natural resources.

Any 404(c) action outside the existing permitting process would be an extreme case of federal overreach and an assault on Alaska sovereignty. The Pebble deposit is not located on federal land, nor inside a refuge or park. It is located on state land designated for mineral exploration. The State of Alaska depends on the responsible development of natural resources on its lands to diversify and support its economy.

The actions of the EPA undermine existing regulatory processes and set a dangerous precedent for future projects. If the EPA preemptively stops projects before they enter the permitting process, any large project could be at risk. Preemptive action by the EPA could become a new tool opponents use to stop projects, or at a minimum, introduce significant uncertainty and delay, chilling Alaska's business climate.

Alaskans have the greatest stake in seeing that any and all development is done in a way that protects resources, including the environment. RDC believes it can be done, because it's already being done.

### **The rigorous permitting process**

It is a policy of RDC to advocate for predictable, timely, and efficient permitting processes that are based on sound science. RDC members firmly believe in due process and the rule of law. Alaska utilizes a well established permitting and review process, with multiple opportunities for public input, and review by local, state, and federal agencies. RDC believes the permitting process is the best place to make decisions about the merits of development projects in Alaska.

Further, RDC is concerned the past preemptive actions of the EPA could be used on future resource development projects across the state and the Lower 48, sending a chill to investment in Alaska and elsewhere.

Alaska has enjoyed the benefits of mining for well over 100 years, with the last several decades seeing new innovations and advancements for protecting the environment. Alaska has stringent regulations to protect its lands.

Every project, no matter the size or location, should have an opportunity to be reviewed under existing legal processes. In the case of mining, there are more than 60 major permits and hundreds more from local, state, and federal agencies that must be successfully obtained. If the process determines a project as designed cannot protect the environment and other resources, it will not advance. The process will not permit one industry or resource to advance at the expense of another.

### **The Proposed Determination was pre-emptive and flawed**

The proposed determination is not based on actual mine plans. It focuses on the effects of a mining project that has not been proposed, and for which key engineering solutions, environmental safeguards, and mitigation measures have not been provided. This is a deeply flawed speculative approach.

Any potential 404(c) actions against the Pebble Project are premature. The project has not yet been finalized and no permit applications – including detailed plans and environmental mitigation strategies – have been submitted to government agencies, nor has the NEPA process been initiated. As a result, the current assessment and any preemptive action would deprive government agencies and stakeholders of the specific information, science, and rigorous reviews that would come out of the multi-year NEPA process.

From the beginning of the flawed Proposed Determination review, RDC has opposed the EPA's actions until there is a formal permit application to properly evaluate the project, and a thorough environmental impact statement is completed, including evaluating socioeconomic benefits of the project.

The CWA does give the EPA authority to veto other agencies' approval of permits, however, it is unprecedented that the EPA would administer this authority in advance of any permit application. Moreover, the agency has rarely used its veto authority and never in advance of permits being issued by other agencies.

The proposed determination ignored existing processes, undermining agency responsibilities on both the state and federal level. Further, the EPA does not have the authority under the Clean Water Act to preemptively block development in the absence of a permit application.

The EPA must withdraw its proposed determination because it was based on an untested, ad hoc analysis that is not sanctioned by the CWA or NEPA. Once the NEPA process is initiated, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement based on project plans.

Until an application is filed describing the project in detail and an Environmental Impact Statement is completed, the EPA is prematurely determining adverse impacts based on hypothetical assessments and inapplicable modeling.

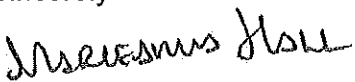
### **Conclusion**

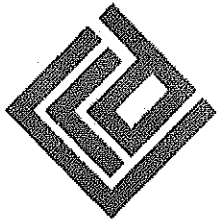
The fate of a project, including Pebble, cannot be rationally decided without consideration of the full social, economic and environmental impacts of the project. This information will be developed through the rigorous NEPA process.

RDC urges the EPA to work in an efficient manner to withdraw the deeply flawed, speculative Proposed Determination. Now is the time to encourage responsible resource development in Alaska, and to encourage investment in Alaskan projects by way of a predictable, timely, and efficient permitting process at the state and national level.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important action.

Sincerely

  
Marleanna Hall  
Executive Director



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

Testimony before the EPA • Iliamna, Alaska • October 12, 2017  
EPA Notice to Withdraw Proposed Determination of Pebble Deposit Area

Good afternoon, my name is Marleanna Hall, I am the executive director for the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. RDC is an Alaskan trade association with members in tourism, oil and gas, forestry, fishing, and mining, as well as the 12 regional Native corporations, labor, individuals, and others supporting the responsible development of Alaska's natural resources.

I am here to offer support for the EPA's proposal to withdraw its July 2014 Proposed Determination on the Pebble Deposit Area. The EPA's proposal to withdraw the pre-emptive decision will allow the project to be fully evaluated after project plans are put forward. Further, RDC recognizes that withdrawal of the Proposed Determination does not remove the EPA from the process, it only rights a wrong – removal of the pre-emptive decision.

Every project, no matter its size or location, should be allowed to go through the permitting process. That process should ultimately determine whether a project should move forward.

My members firmly believe in due process and the rule of law. A number of trade associations and businesses from across all resources sectors in the state are on the record in opposition of the pre-emptive actions of the EPA. They communicated clearly that the action would send a chill across the investment climate in their industries. For example, the Alaska Oil and Gas Association has previously spoke up in support of allowing all projects to be vetted in the permitting process.

As Alaskans, we have the greatest stake in seeing that any and all development is done in a way that protects resources, including fish and wildlife, whether it is for commercial or subsistence use. I believe it can be done, because it's already being done.

RDC urges the EPA to work quickly to withdraw the deeply flawed, speculative Proposed Determination. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, I will submit additional detailed comments before the deadline.

Founded 1975

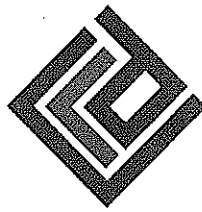
Executive Director  
Marleanna Hall

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# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

October 16, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: CECW-CO-N (Mary Coulombe)  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Re: Executive Order 13777, Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda  
Docket # COE-2017-0004

Dear Ms. Coulombe:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on Executive Order 13777, "Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda," which established a federal policy to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burdens and directs federal agencies to establish a Regulatory Reform Task Force to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations to the U.S. Corps of Engineers (Corps) regarding their repeal, replacement or modification. RDC understands the task force will attempt to identify regulations that eliminate jobs or inhibit job creation, are outdated, unnecessary, and ineffective, impose costs that exceed benefits, and create serious inconsistencies.

RDC is a statewide non-profit business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, fisheries and tourism industries. RDC's membership also includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor and industry-support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

## Introduction

RDC's comments pertain to the need to streamline regulatory processes and reduce the regulatory burden. The Clean Water Act (CWA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and other laws have significantly impacted natural resource development industries operating on federal and state land in Alaska, including the North Slope.

A major goal of RDC is to build a more diverse and vibrant economy in Alaska through the responsible development of its natural resources. In fact, allowing the State of Alaska to develop its resources was a central compact of statehood to ensure the young state's economic and social well-being. The economic benefits of oil and gas development and mining to Alaskan residents, local communities, and the State is alone a good reason to reform federal regulations and laws that have blocked or

hindered access to resources over the past 40 years. Robust natural resource industries in Alaska should be a major consideration of any regulatory reform effort, given the pressing economic needs of Alaska and the strategic importance of the 49th state's resources to America. Alaska's resource industries have demonstrated coexistence with wildlife, fish and the environment. Regulations should be reasonable and balanced to protect the environment while allowing access to and development of natural resources to encourage job creation, sustain local economies, and provide much-needed resources to America.

The oil and gas and mining industries are key to sustaining a strong economy in Alaska. The oil industry makes up approximately one-third of the Alaska economy, accounts for nearly a third of all jobs, and has funded up to 90 percent of the State's unrestricted general fund revenues. Mining is also an economic force in the state, providing thousands of jobs and revenues to the local and state governments.

### **“No net loss” of wetlands policy is not practicable in Alaska**

RDC members across Alaska's natural resource sectors have serious concerns regarding the requirement of compensatory mitigation for development projects in the state. Frankly, a “no net loss” of wetlands policy designed for the Lower 48 states is not practicable in Alaska.

The Clinton administration, through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Corps initiated a panel of stakeholders and solicited public comments in Alaska to address concerns of how the CWA Section 404 was to be implemented in the state, taking into consideration its uniqueness. Since over 43 percent of Alaska is covered in wetlands, there was minimal justification for implementing a compensatory mitigation program in Alaska that was designed for the continental U.S. As a result of the outreach efforts, federal agencies issued the 1994 Alaska Wetlands Initiative, resulting in a Memorandum of Agreement clarifying that “no net loss of wetlands” wasn't realistic or practicable in Alaska. At the time, the Alaska Wetlands Initiative was issued, federal agencies emphasized that compensatory mitigation was only required in Alaska where appropriate and practicable and that, in Alaska, “restoring, enhancing, or creating wetlands through compensatory mitigation may not be practicable due to the limited availability of sites or technical/logistical limitations.”

In 2008, the Corps and EPA issued the Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources Final Rule. Many commenters said the rule should address regional issues relating to compensatory mitigation. For example, a number of commenters discussed implementation of Section 404 of the CWA in Alaska where there is a clear understanding that compensatory mitigation is not practicable. These commenters, including RDC, said the final rule should identify Alaska as a special case in which local flexibility is needed and will be applied. In Alaska, especially the North Slope, there are virtually no opportunities to create and restore wetlands because of its environmental conditions.

During the implementation of the final rule, the Corps omitted special consideration granted to Alaska under the Alaska Wetlands Initiative. By omitting this consideration, a critical tool was removed from the regulatory agencies, local communities, businesses, and resource development industries.

### **Compensatory mitigation should not be required on the North Slope**

RDC members operating on the North Slope require Corps permits to build the infrastructure necessary to develop and produce oil and gas resources. Given the entire North Slope consists primarily of jurisdictional wetlands, no new roads, pipelines, or camps can be built without first obtaining a Corps wetlands discharge authorization. Imposing compensatory mitigation on projects in this region can severely compromise the economics of new projects and place unnecessary burden on the developer. Moreover, there is considerable uncertainty with current regulations, which provide no clear standard for when compensatory

mitigation is required, while giving the Corps discretion to deny permits, even when there are no reasonable options for compensatory mitigation.

Wetlands restoration projects are virtually impossible on the North Slope since nearly all the region is wetland. As a result, the requirements for avoidance and compensatory mitigation in 33 CFR 332 should be rescinded for the North Slope. These regulations are clearly unnecessary and impose costs that exceed their benefits.

Given the absence of mitigation options on the North Slope, RDC urges the Corps to provide regulatory certainty based on the November 1992 Proposed Rule, "Exception From Wetlands Mitigation Sequence for Alaska." The proposed rule would have exempted states with less than one percent loss of historic wetlands from all but the minimization requirements of the mitigation sequence of avoidance, minimization, and compensatory mitigation. The rule acknowledged there are no practicable alternatives on the North Slope for community and industrial development except in wetlands. It also recognized that because of the high proportion of land that is wetland, it is difficult to avoid wetlands when development and growth occur. Similarly, due to the high proportion of wetlands in Alaska, it is difficult to compensate for wetland loss. In the Lower 48, restoration of historic wetlands is often required. However, because of its extremely low loss rate, it is exceptionally difficult to restore historic wetlands in Alaska.

The 1992 rule was withdrawn by the EPA in 1994 in favor of exercising flexibility within existing rules on whether to require compensatory mitigation. However, in the case of the North Slope, "flexibility" has caused significant uncertainty for projects. The risk associated with this regulatory uncertainty is a significant impairment to new projects, especially during what is expected to be an extended era of low oil prices, which have challenged the economics of many projects that are needed to refill the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System.

The adoption of the one percent threshold for the North Slope does not pose a significant risk to wetland functions, the environment, wildlife or fish. With advances in technology, the footprint of development has been greatly reduced. Moreover, there are numerous studies on the impacts of development on watersheds, concluding that significant impacts to the aquatic resources and functions of a watershed occur only when approximately five to ten percent of the watershed has been developed. The North Slope is well below these thresholds.

RDC urges the Corps to adopt the one percent threshold on the North Slope. Only minimization should be required by 33 CFR 332.1 until the one percent threshold is reached within a hydrological unit code (HUC) 8 watershed. This threshold is conservative and will not result in significant degradation to the environment. With proper planning, development can minimize impacts to wetlands when avoidance is not practicable.

### **Reform the National Environmental Policy Act**

Legislation to reform NEPA is sorely needed to streamline the permitting process and eliminate conflicting orders and requirements from various federal agencies. Such action would provide more certainty in the permitting process, helping industry justify investments worth billions of dollars.

NEPA regulations imposed by the Corps and other federal agencies are unnecessarily costly to comply with, extremely time consuming, and needlessly limit most development projects. NEPA regulations are misused by anti-development groups to appeal, litigate, and otherwise hinder most development projects. Environmental Impact Statements averaged 300 pages in the early years of the law, and now run more than 2,000 pages each, with a much broader scope than originally intended. The legal system is partly to blame, given rulings on the adequacy of environmental rules.



## **Reform the Endangered Species Act**

The ESA has been expanded far beyond its original intent. The splitting of species into small and smaller subgroups or semi-distinct populations of species has expanded the scope of the ESA far beyond what Congress intended. As with NEPA, the ESA has been abused by anti-development groups to delay, halt or impose unnecessary costly constraints on many legitimate development projects. The law has also resulted in endless litigation by non-development activists to derail projects and is used to limit access to areas even before a species is listed as endangered.

The listing of a species as threatened when it is currently healthy and exists in abundance – based solely on projections that it may suffer from speculative habitat loss in 100 years due to climate change – removes all meaningful barriers to listing under the ESA. Recent court decisions applying to listings in the Arctic and elsewhere in Alaska have laid the groundwork for hundreds of future ESA climate change listings based only on projections of events many decades in the future. These future listings are likely to inflict serious economic harm across Alaska and the Lower 48.

Once a species is listed under the ESA, significant regulatory consequences follow. The ESA tasks agencies with developing a recovery plan and designating critical habitat for listed species. The Act requires that all projects with federal funding or that require any federal approval must not jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a species critical habitat. The Section 7 consultation process injects uncertainty into projects in that federal agencies have wide leeway to modify or prohibit a proposed action or project.

Resource development projects across Alaska and the Lower 48 are already subject to rigorous permitting and oversight from the State of Alaska and federal agencies, which implement robust environmental permitting processes through the CWA, NEPA, and other laws. The Section 7 consultation process, stacked upon these existing regulatory hurdles, is redundant at best. The delay and added cost triggered by additional listings may prove insurmountable for many projects.

### **Conclusion:**

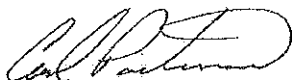
With at least a third of America's conventional oil and gas resources and large deposits of key minerals and strategic minerals, Alaska's immense natural resources have the potential to be a major domestic contributor of raw materials for America. The responsible development of these resources would power Alaska's economy forward, establish American energy dominance, and provide thousands of new jobs nationwide (all important priorities of the Trump administration).

The oil and gas and mining industries have proven they can coexist with other industries and the environment. However, overly burdensome, conflicting, and redundant environmental laws, standards, regulations, and management prescriptions are an impediment to sustainable and responsible resource development.

The 1994 Alaska wetlands initiative is still very much applicable to Alaska and the Corps should use it. In the case of wetlands development on the North Slope, RDC urges the Corps to exempt industry and community development from the requirements of the mitigation sequence of avoidance, minimization, and compensatory mitigation. Only minimization should be required by 33 CFR 332.1 until one percent of historic wetlands within a HUC 8 watershed have been developed.

RDC believes compensatory mitigation is not practicable in Alaska. The Corps needs a policy that is unique to Alaska and recognizes the reality of the Alaska environment – a state with nearly half of its 365 million acres as wetlands, and little or no opportunities for compensatory mitigation.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Portman', written in a cursive style.

Carl Portman  
Deputy Director

Cc: U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski  
U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan  
Congressman Don Young



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**Featured speakers include:**

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- **Dan Robinson**, Chief – Research and Analysis Division Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- **Lea Souliotis**, Global Wells Purchasing Supply Chain Manager Alaska, BP
- **Lisa Bruner**, Vice President, North Slope Operations & Development, ConocoPhillips
- **Dr. Pearl Brower**, President, Iisagvik College

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**Featuring:**

- Neil Loader, VP of Operations BP
- David Wulf, VP of HSE, ConocoPhillips
- Special video presentation "20 Years of NSTC."

**November 3**

**Doors open** and lunch buffet:  
**11 am**

APICC Annual Meeting:  
 12 noon to 4 pm

**NSTC 20th Anniversary  
 Reception**

Immediately follows until 6 pm  
 Hors d' oeuvres and hosted bar

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**2017 Alaska Miners Association convention  
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**ANILCA: What you need to know**

**Course Instructors:**

**Dick Mylius, Retired Director, Division of Mining, Land and Water, Alaska Department of Natural Resources**

**Tina Cunning, Retired, State-Federal Issues Program Manager, Alaska Department of Fish & Game**

**Sally Gibert, Retired State of Alaska ANILCA Program Coordinator**

**Course description:**

In working with federal agencies in Alaska, miners need to understand the federal land laws that are unique to Alaska as these affect existing and proposed mines on a daily basis. This course will provide a condensed overview of Alaska land history and context leading up to passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), a roadmap to the full statute, and highlights of interest to miners in Alaska. More detail will be provided for ANILCA access provisions and the relationship of non-ANILCA access (e.g., ANCSA 17(b) easements, RS2477s). Select ANILCA provisions and current implementation issues that may affect miners will also be addressed, such as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, "no more" clauses. Course instructors have over 100 years of cumulative ANILCA-related experience. They currently anchor the formal two-day ANILCA Trainings sponsored by the US Department of the Interior and offered through the Institute of the North.



**Cost is \$200. You don't have to be registered for AMA to attend!**

**See: <https://alma.memberclicks.net/2017-convention>**

**38<sup>th</sup> Annual Alaska Resources Conference**  
**Dena'ina Convention Center Anchorage, AK**

**Wednesday, November 15th**

- 7:00 a.m.** Registration/Check-in/Exhibits Open  
Eye-Opener Breakfast in Exhibit Area – Sponsored by Wells Fargo
- 8:00** Opening Remarks  
Eric Fjelstad, RDC President, Managing Partner, Alaska Office, Perkins Coie LLP
- Industry 2017 in Review and 2018 Outlook**  
Fisheries: Stephanie Madsen, Executive Director, At-Sea Processors Association  
Forestry: John Sturgeon, President, Koncor Forest Products  
Mining: Karen Matthias, Executive Director, Council of Alaska Producers  
Oil & Gas: Kara Moriarty, President and CEO, Alaska Oil and Gas Association  
Tourism: Ralph Samuels, Vice President, Government & Community Relations, Holland America – Princess Cruises
- Alaska Economic Trends and 2018 Outlook**  
Neal Fried, Economist, Alaska Department of Labor
- 10:00** Networking Break – Sponsored by ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
- 10:30** Edge of Opportunity: Can Alaska Compete?  
Lisa Bruner, Vice President North Slope Operations and Development, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
- Future of the Alaska Dispatch News**  
Ryan Binkley, Co-publisher, Alaska Dispatch News
- 11:30** Networking Break
- Noon** Keynote Luncheon: Sponsored by Northrim Bank  
**Alaska's First People: A Vision for the Future**  
Rex Rock, Sr., Chairman, Voice of the Arctic Inupiat  
Anthony Mallott, President and CEO, Sealaska Corporation (*Invited*)
- 1:30 p.m.** Putting More Oil in TAPS: What Will it Take?  
Damian Bilbao, Vice President, Commercial Ventures, BP Alaska  
Pat Foley, Vice President, Alaska Operations, Caelus Energy Alaska, LLC  
Vince Beltrami, Executive President, Alaska AFL-CIO  
Teresa Imm, Vice President, Resource Development, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation  
Andy Mack, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources
- 3:00** Networking Break – Sponsored by BP Alaska
- 3:30** Frontier of Opportunity: The North Slope  
David Wilkins, Senior Vice President for Alaska, Hilcorp Alaska LLC  
Ed Kerr, Director, Armstrong Oil and Gas Company  
Eni, U.S. Operating Company, Inc., Speaker details forthcoming
- 4:30** VIP Networking Reception – Hosted by ExxonMobil *open to conference registrants and speakers*

**Thursday, November 16th**

- 8:00 a.m.** Exhibits Open  
Eye-Opener Breakfast in Exhibit Area – **Sponsorship Available!**
- 8:30** Growing Alaska's Economy Out of Recession  
Sheldon Fisher, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Revenue  
Senator Cathy Giessel, Co-Chair, Senate Resources Committee  
Representative Geran Tarr, Co-Chair, House Resources Committee  
Sam Mazzeo, Senior Vice President and Alaska Commercial Banking Manager, Wells Fargo
- 10:00** Networking Break – Sponsored by Stoel Rives LLP
- 10:30** Putting New Mines Into Production  
John Springsteen, Executive Director, Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority  
Greg Beischer, President and CEO, Millrock Resources, Inc.  
Mike Satre, Manager, Government and Community Relations, Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company
- 11:30** Networking Break
- Noon** Keynote Luncheon: Sponsored by Holland America Line  
American Energy Dominance: Alaska's Role  
Daniel Simmons, Acting Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Agency, U.S. Department of Energy
- 1:30 p.m.** Alaska LNG Project: Moving Forward  
Keith Meyer, President, Alaska Gasline Development Corporation
- Stand for Alaska  
Speaker details forthcoming
- 3:00** Grand Raffle Drawing
- Send-off Champagne Toast – Sponsored by Alaska Oil and Gas Association

*Agenda as of October 30, 2017. Please check [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org) for updates to this program.*

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Alaska Ocean Leadership  
**AWARDS**

Who is your  
*Ocean  
Hero?*

*Nominations open  
through December 1st*

The Alaska Ocean Leadership Awards were established as annual awards to encourage and give recognition to outstanding achievements related to ocean sciences, education and resource management in Alaska.

**Alaska Ocean Leadership Awards**

*To be awarded at the Alaska Marine Gala ~ February 3, 2018*

**Walter J. & Ermalee Hickel's  
Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Stewardship and Sustainability Award**

**Marine Research Award**

**Marine Science Outreach Award**

**Hoffman - Greene Ocean Youth Award**



THE ALASKA

*Marine  
Gala*

For information please contact  
[oceanawards@alaskasealife.org](mailto:oceanawards@alaskasealife.org)



# 2018 Alaska Ocean Leadership Awards

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## Walter J. & Ermalee Hickel's Lifetime Achievement Award

\$500 cash prize

Sponsored by: Governor Walter J. and Ermalee Hickel

Awarded to an individual or institution that has made an exceptional contribution to management of Alaska's coastal and ocean resources over a period of 20 or more years.

2010 Recipient: Senator Ted Stevens and Dr. Vera Alexander

2011 Recipient: Dr. Clarence Pautzke

2012 Recipient: Caleb Pungowiyi

2013 Recipient: Clement V. Tillion

2014 Recipient: Stan Stephens

2015 Recipient: Al Burch

2016 Recipient: Captain Ed Page

2017 Recipient: Dorothy Childers

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## Stewardship and Sustainability Award

Sponsored by: Jason Brune

Awarded to an industry initiative that demonstrates the highest commitment to sustainability of ocean resources.

2010 Recipient: The Marine Conservation Alliance

2011 Recipient: Shell Alaska Venture

2012 Recipient: North Pacific Fishery Management Council

2013 Recipient: Holland America Line

2014 Recipient: Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center

2015 Recipient: Alyeska Pipeline's Vessel of Opportunity Program

2016 Recipient: SeaShare

2017 Recipient: ConocoPhillips

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## Marine Research Award

\$500 cash prize

Sponsored by: Drs. Clarence Pautzke and Maureen McCrae

Awarded to a scientist, team of scientists or an institution that is acknowledged by peers to have made an original breakthrough contribution or a career spanning achievement in any field of scientific knowledge about Alaska's oceans.

2010 Recipient: Dr. Gordon Kruse

2011 Recipient: Dr. Jeremy Mathis

2012 Recipient: Jan Straley

2013 Recipient: Drs. Katrin Ilken, Brenda Konar,  
Russ Hopcroft and Bodhil Bluhm

2014 Recipient: Dr. Tom Weingartner

2015 Recipient: Drs. Jacqueline Grebmeier and Lee Cooper

2016 Recipient: Dr. Gunnar Knapp

2017 Recipient: Dr. Stanley "Jeep" Rice

## Marine Science Outreach Award

(Formerly Ocean Literacy and Ocean Media Awards)

\$500 cash prize

Sponsored by: Alaska Ocean Observing System

Awarded to a person, team or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to ocean literacy via formal or informal education, media or other communications about Alaska's marine ecosystems.

### Ocean Literacy

2010 Recipient: Kenai Fjords Tours Marine Science Explorer Program

2011 Recipient: Elizabeth Trowbridge - CACS

2012 Recipient: Kurt Byers & Sea Grant Staff

2013 Recipient: Bonita Nelson

### Ocean Media

2010 Recipient: Elizabeth Arnold

2011 Recipient: Marine Conservation Alliance

2012 Recipient: Deborah Mercy

2013 Recipient: Thomas Litwin and Lawrence Hott

### Marine Science Outreach

2014 Recipient: Laurie "Poppy" Benson

2015 Recipient: Benjamin Carney

2016 Recipient: Susan Saupe

2017 Recipient: Phyllis Shoemaker

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## Hoffman-Greene Ocean Youth Award

\$500 cash prize

Sponsored by: Dale Hoffman

Awarded to an individual or team of Alaskan youth ages 12-19 who has displayed a dedication to promoting the understanding and stewardship of Alaska's oceans.

2013 Recipient: Ahmaogak Sweeney

2014 Recipient: Pribilof Student Marine Research Student Team

2015 Recipient: Alisa Aist

2016 Recipient: Sofia Astaburuaga Larenas

2017 Recipient: Cade Emory Terada

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- On Occasion -

## Ocean Ambassador Award

The Ocean Ambassador Award was created to recognize an individual or organization that has made outstanding contributions in promoting public awareness and appreciation of Alaska's oceans, coasts, and marine ecosystems.

2015 Recipient: Ray Troll

2016 Recipient: Arliss Sturgulewski

The Alaska Miners Association  
Annual Convention and Trade Show Banquet presents the

# George Schmidt Memorial Raffle & Silent Auction

to Benefit Alaska Resource Education

Grand prize drawing: Thursday, November 9, 2017



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Please call 907-276-5487 or e-mail [raffle@akresource.org](mailto:raffle@akresource.org) with any questions.

Alaska Resource Education's mission is to educate students about Alaska's natural resources.

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