



**Seafarers
International
Union of
North America,
AFL-CIO**

**Michael Sacco
President**

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January 21, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Monument Designation for ANWR

Dear Mr. President:

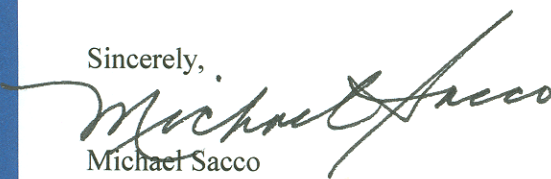
I am aware of an ongoing effort by some environmental organizations and members of Congress to encourage you to declare the Arctic National Wilderness Area (ANWR) a national monument. The Seafarers International Union is opposed to such a designation and, respectfully, we urge you not to consider such an action. Doing so would close off a vital resource that has the potential for creating thousands of good paying jobs, especially seafaring jobs, that our economy desperately needs.

Our membership has been safely moving oil on tankers from Valdez to the Lower 48 and Hawaii for decades. We are confident that, if given the chance, our members will do the same with oil extracted from ANWR. We have been working with our contracted companies, including our leading tanker operator Alaska Tanker Company (ATC), to ensure that all oil moved is done so as safely and cleanly as possible. ATC's safety record for responsibly transporting this oil is unblemished – with over 14 million man-hours of transfers without a lost-time injury. And in the last eight years, ATC has moved nearly 1.3 billion barrels of oil without losing a single drop.

Mr. President, like you, we are committed to creating good paying jobs for middle class Americans. We view the opening of ANWR for responsible drilling as a way to create good paying jobs for Americans while at the same time helping to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy. Having played a key role in the cleanup of the BP oil spill, we recognize the concerns many have about safe and responsible drilling, but we are confident that the resources available in ANWR can be extracted and transported safely – because we've been doing it for decades. Our membership believes that a national monument designation for ANWR is a bad policy decision and one that would have a direct, harmful impact on our members and their families.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your administration to strengthen job opportunities for working families across America.

Sincerely,


Michael Sacco
President

