



PRESS STATEMENT

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CONTACT:

Ty Hardt
Director of Communications
Desk (907) 339-6888
Mobile (907) 223-3253
thardt@asrc.com

**Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Reacts to Latest Plan to Permanently Block ANWR
from Exploration and Development**

Announcement shows a blatant disregard for those who live on Alaska's North Slope

Following the announcement by the Obama administration, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) is releasing the following statement:

We are staunchly opposed to this relentless and coordinated effort to designate the Coastal Plain of ANWR as Wilderness. This administration has deliberately ignored the input provided by the most affected people within ANWR.

The notion that the Coastal Plain of ANWR is untrammled by man is wrong and very misguided. The people of the Arctic Slope region, specifically Kaktovik, have thrived in this area for over 10,000 years, and therefore fall outside of the definition of characteristics of wilderness.

The Comprehensive Conservation Plan fails to clearly guarantee protection of subsistence access, resources and uses, and further is an exercise in disparate treatment of two distinct indigenous Alaska Native groups, the Iñupiat and Gwich'in; thereby limiting access to privately owned lands held by Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation and ASRC through a Wilderness designation, while failing to incorporate lands on the southern edge of ANWR into this same designation.

The people of the Arctic Slope region, especially the residents of Kaktovik, are conservation minded, and yet rely on responsible oil and gas development to sustain our communities. This proposed designation as announced would effectively slam the door shut on the substantial economic opportunities associated with future development of the potential resources in the Coastal Plain.

Recognizing the unique status of the Coastal Plain, even President Carter had the opportunity to designate it as Wilderness and chose not to because of its potential for domestic oil and gas production. ANWR holds the greatest North American potential for on-shore development where technology, regulations and mitigation standards are well established. To designate the Coastal Plain as Wilderness is shortsighted and a national security risk.

Simply put, this surprise announcement shows a blatant disregard for the people of the North Slope and we will join the State of Alaska, Alaska's Congressional Delegation, the Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation, and the North Slope Borough in fighting it.

About ASRC

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation is owned by and represents the business interests of the Arctic Slope Iñupiat. Since opening enrollment in 1989 to Alaska Natives born after 1971, the corporation's shareholder base has nearly tripled, growing from the 3,700 original enrollees to around 12,000 today. Corporate headquarters are based in Barrow, Alaska, with administrative and subsidiary offices located in Anchorage and throughout the United States. ASRC, along with its family of companies, is the largest Alaskan-owned company, employing approximately 10,000 people worldwide. The company has six major business segments: petroleum refining and marketing, energy support services, construction, government services, resource development and industrial services.