

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Charlie Huggins Senator

December 22, 2010

Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment
Bureau of Ocean Energy, Management, Regulation and Enforcement
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting this letter to encourage the speedy approval of Shell's planned oil and gas development in the Beaufort Sea off the coast of Alaska. I believe it is imperative that we allow responsible access to Alaska's vast resources in the Arctic. Alaska is the storehouse for the oil and gas that are so vital to our nation's security and economy. Domestic energy production must continue to be a priority, even as we strive to transition to renewable forms of energy.

I believe Shell's resource development in the Beaufort can be done responsibly and in a way that protects the Arctic environment and its communities through the highest and environmental and safety standards of our time. Shell's approved 2010 Outer Continental Shelf Exploration Plan has been revised to provide for reduced discharges that are more environmentally friendly and the BOEM has determined that the plan will have no significant impacts on the marine environment or on marine mammal, bird or fish species common to the Arctic.

I also believe that Alaska OCS development can help bolster our country's flagging economy. Alaska and our nation depend on the economic development and employment opportunities that offshore oil and gas production provide. According to a study by the University of Alaska's Institute of Social and Economic Research, new offshore energy production in Alaska could yield an annual average of 35,000 jobs and total payroll of more than \$72 billion over the next 50 years. New offshore oil and gas development in Alaska could also generate thousands of new, high-paying jobs throughout nation, from steel and pipe manufacturers in the Midwest to shipping on both coasts to advanced computer technology in California and Seattle.

In conclusion, I believe America and Alaska need the resources and the jobs that OCS development can provide. Therefore, I strongly encourage the federal government to move forward with Shell's 2011 Exploration Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Huggins".

Charlie Huggins
Senator