

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Office of the Mayor

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Mayor Dan Sullivan

October 1, 2010

BLM Alaska State Office
Attention – NPR-A Planning Team
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

Submitted online and via email to: <http://www.blm.gov/ak> and NPRAScoping@blm.gov

Re: National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Planning Effort

Dear NPR-A Planning Team:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input with your planning efforts affecting the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). I have made the issue of energy a top priority in my Administration and it is why I offer commentary today. In the Cook Inlet Region, we struggle with deliverability; the same is true for the Trans Alaska Pipeline. We need more oil flowing through that pipe to keep our economies strong and to offer a viable future for Alaska's next generations. Lack of volume is already compromising the integrity of the pipeline and therefore, jeopardizing our existing quality of life. The construction of a natural gas pipeline is hugely important to our future and NPR-A could hold volumes of gas that are advantageous to the economics of a line.

Alaska's oil and gas companies use new technologies that limit their environmental footprint and we must use our own resources to the benefit of our own national security. It is alarming to consider the amount of oil we import from foreign countries that are unfriendly to the United States, thereby improving their already strong financial position and without regard to their environmental activities. At the same time, we have resources under our own ground and highly experienced companies who are poised and ready to get to work.

In light of this information, I urge you to provide access to NPR-A's greatest prospects for oil, gas, and mineral entry, including industrial mineral and coal leasing. I encourage BLM in its planning efforts to make provisions for transportation corridors within NPR-A to facilitate future oil and gas development in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and other natural resource development in NPR-A. Access to South NPR-A should be accommodated with provisions to protect important surface values and traditional ways of life.

Further, BLM should refrain from designating highly restrictive conservation units in NPR-A given our country's growing need for energy and minerals, as well as the potential existence of world-class deposits in the reserve. Alaska already has an overwhelming and unacceptable majority of the nation's public lands closed to development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Sullivan".

Dan Sullivan
Mayor