

December 21, 2010

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

RE: Beaufort Sea Drilling is Key to Alaska Success

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for the approval and implementation of Shell's 2011 revised Exploration Plan.

Many will write to express their thoughts regarding American energy independence as good foreign policy, employing Alaskans, and keeping our state budget online to provide government services. While I certainly share those thoughts and feelings, I have new ones to add to the argument for drilling in the Beaufort Sea.

Alaska is an untapped resource domestically and internationally, and not just in terms of the plentiful wildlife, beautiful land, or its natural resources in the forms of oil and gas, mineral deposits, timber, and fish. Alaska is a legitimate entity also in terms of the economic opportunities it can provide. Alaskans are innovative, energetic people with a willingness to work hard and contribute to the national and international communities. However, holding us back is a lack of access to our resources; this prevents the building of infrastructure, drains our population (particularly our young people), and puts a slow yet serious damper on our state budget. Alaska is ready to roll up its sleeves and work. In order to do so, we require access to our resources. Oil is our main revenue source. With more jobs we will see a reduction in urban and rural poverty due to infrastructure improvement and employment opportunities.

The investment that the federal government makes in Alaska by granting access to drilling opportunities--particularly in the Beaufort Sea--will return tenfold not only to Alaska, but also the nation. Alaskans need the work, America needs the oil, and the world could stand to benefit from a stronger Alaska. Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts.

Sincerely,

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