

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 11, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

We are writing to strongly encourage you to work expeditiously to finalize the environmental review process for Lease Sale 193 and allow for oil and natural gas development in the Chukchi Sea.

Let us begin by saying, we applaud the efforts of operators in the Chukchi Sea who have taken steps to further bolster their blowout prevention and spill response capabilities in the unlikely event of a future incident. While we understand the Obama Administration's desire to ensure appropriate changes to offshore processes and regulations are made so we are better prepared to address any future oil spill, Lease Sale 193 has undergone a thorough, exhaustive, and conclusive environmental review. The Revised Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement associated with this lease sale rightfully concludes that a very large oil spill in Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) is highly improbable. Even further, the proposed drilling in the Chukchi Sea would occur in water depths synonymous with the Gulf of Mexico's offshore shallow water drilling operations, an area off our coastline that has a proven safety record.

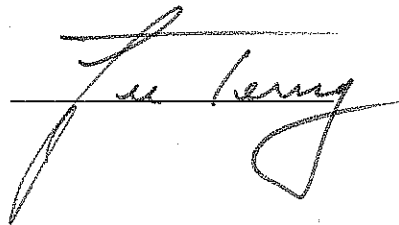
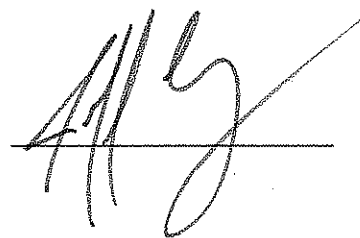
We all must remain mindful of the fact that offshore energy exploration and development off Alaska's coasts will provide American-made energy and jobs, as well as community stability to ensure future economic growth in our great nation. In fact, a 2011 study by Northern Economics found that the development of Alaska's vast offshore resources could generate an annual average of 54,700 jobs nationwide, with an estimated cumulative payroll amounting to \$145 billion over the next 50 years.

Coastal states, like Alaska, have long been a cooperative partner of the federal government regarding oil and gas resources for the nation's energy use. At a time in which America is experiencing a national unemployment rate of 9.1 percent, high gas prices, a faltering economic recovery, and civil unrest in foreign energy-producing countries, the Obama Administration should join Alaska and other energy producing coastal states who wish to have more power over their coastlines. States that support offshore activities off their coastline, like Lease Sale 193, should be given the right to

contribute energy to meet America's needs, while allowing them a share of the oil and gas revenues.

With your help and leadership in Alaska, we can keep America safe, secure, and prosperous today and for future generations. We appreciate your consideration of our views and look forward to working with you to responsibly increase the nation's supply of safe, affordable, and reliable energy.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dan Young in cursive script.Handwritten signature of Lee Perry in cursive script.Handwritten signature of Carl Ben in cursive script.Handwritten signature of Al G in cursive script.Handwritten signature of Craig Ball in cursive script.Handwritten signature of Dan Olson in cursive script.Handwritten signature of Carl Ben in cursive script.Handwritten signature of Steve Fairbairn in cursive script.

Glenn GT Thompson PA-5 Cynthia P Lummis

Jim H.A.

Willy Romero

Russ Flores (TX-17)

[Signature]

Steve Lee

Ken F. Banks

H. M. L. L. L. L.
