

December 20, 2010

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

Subject: Support Alaska Development in the Beaufort Sea

To Whom It May Concern:

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

There is no doubt concern about the environment and the readiness of response teams in a remote area. However, the development of oil and natural gas resources in the Beaufort Sea is crucial to Alaska's survival. Over 40,000 jobs in our state are supported by the industry, putting \$6 billion annually into the Alaska economy. While our unemployment rate continues to climb, the well-being of many Alaska families is endangered because our state depends on natural resource development more than any other state.

Our dependency on resource development has created a high standard of safety and clean exploration. I have visited Prudhoe Bay multiple times and have been impressed by the high standards in the area. I have seen a wide variety of wildlife thrive in the area and know any exploration in Alaska can be done safely and cleanly. That is why exploration in Alaska is the green choice compared to exploration in other places with lower environmental standards of environmental protection.

In conclusion, Alaska is a resource-rich state that needs to be put to work, not only to grant its residents the jobs the state needs to survive but also to truly propel our nation forward with better energy options. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joe Samaniego
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