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JOHN COGHILL

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Alaska State Legislature



Senate

During Session:
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SENATE DISTRICT F

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: Allow Responsible Access to Alaska's Resources in the Beaufort Sea

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to urge the swift approval of Shell's planned oil and gas development in the Beaufort Sea off the coast of Alaska – a critical step for energy production and domestic energy jobs in Alaska, as well as the Arctic.

While Shell's 2010 Outer Continental Shelf Exploration Plan has already been approved, Shell has revised it to include provisions that will reduce discharges to the marine environment. These changes will ultimately allow for more environmentally friendly drilling, showing that industry remains committed to safe and responsible operations.

Right now, our nation is suffering from high unemployment and a stagnant economy. With jobs in Alaska and across the nation depending on the opportunities that offshore oil and gas production can and will provide, we cannot continue to delay the reasonable development of our abundant offshore oil and natural gas resources. In fact, a study by the University of Alaska found that new offshore energy production in the state of Alaska would produce an annual average of 35,000 jobs over the next 50 years for the state of Alaska alone, with a total payroll of \$72 billion (2007) over the 50-year period.

Further, the industry supports jobs not just in exploring, producing, refining, transporting and marketing oil and natural gas but also through the purchases it makes of other goods and services that support the industry's operations. Equipment suppliers, construction companies, management specialists and food service businesses all have a strong link to energy.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the federal government to move forward with Shell's 2011 Exploration Plan.

Now is the time to promote policies that responsibly encourage job promotion and creation while growing the economy and providing the nation with much need U.S. energy supplies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Coghill".

Senator John Coghill