



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:

Shell has issued its Outer Continental Shelf Exploration Plan, including provisions that reduce environmental discharge in order to allow for more environmentally-friendly drilling. With this commitment by the industry to operate safely and responsibly, I write in support of moving forward with Shell's 2011 Exploration Plan.

Alaskans cannot wait any longer. We depend financially on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System—revenue from the sale of resources funds approximately 90% of our state budget. With oil throughput on a rapid decline, Alaska must find ways to diversify its economy if it will avoid the straight path to recession that it is already on. In order to bring its nose up, Alaska needs options. While likelihoods besides oil and gas must be explored, natural resource development is still the cornerstone of Alaska success. We have an enthusiastic population of workers and the tough environmental standards required to move forward. We can't delay development of our state any longer—the longer we delay, the further we set ourselves back.

In order to bring its nose up, Alaska needs options. While likelihoods besides oil and gas must be explored, natural resource development is still the cornerstone of Alaska success. We have an enthusiastic population of workers and the tough environmental standards required to move forward. We can't delay development of our state any longer—the longer we delay, the further we set ourselves back.

Sincerely,

Lynn Gattis
1650 N. Shoreline Dr.
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

PHONE (907) 373-0300
FAX (907) 373-0299
E-MAIL gattis@mtaonline.net