

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 27, 2010

Dear participants in the 6th Annual Alaska Oil & Gas Congress:

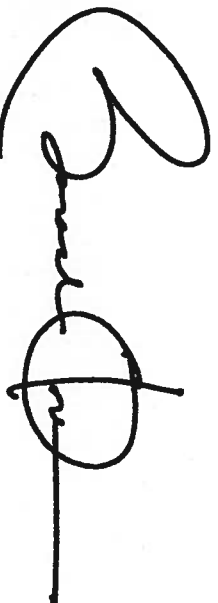
I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who is working hard to find answers to America's energy needs. No doubt many of those answers will continue to come from Alaska. Not only has the state been a leader in oil production for more than thirty years, but your great state is moving into wind, small hydroelectric projects, geothermal, and other renewable sources of energy to reduce our country's dependence on fossil fuels while also reducing future energy costs to consumers.

As part of Alaska's contribution to America's energy needs, I share with you the anticipation that a North Slope natural gas pipeline could finally be on its way south to serve North American markets.

In addition to energy security, the pipeline would provide short and long-term economic benefits far beyond the tens of thousands of construction jobs it would create. The Nation's electrical utilities, manufacturers, businesses, and homeowners will all live better with affordable, domestic natural gas supplies. Energy is an essential part of America's economic stability and that is where the gas line comes into play, bringing more than \$10 billion worth of domestic natural gas a year to the Lower 48 states at projected future prices.

The Office of Federal Coordinator stands ready to help with permitting for the multibillion-dollar pipeline, and my Administration fully supports that office and its objective of coordinating Federal planning to help advance the project.

Thank you for your work on energy issues, and my best wishes for a successful conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barack Obama", with a large, stylized "B" at the beginning and a horizontal line extending from the end.