

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Office of the Mayor

Phone: 907-343-7100

FAX: 907-343-7180

Mayor Dan Sullivan

June 7, 2010

Ms. Sharon Seim
Planning Team Leader
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
101-12th Avenue, Room 236
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Submitted via e-mail to: ArcticRefugeCCP@fws.gov

Re: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Dear Ms. Seim:

Updating the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Range will have more than local, North Slope implications. I would encourage you not to take action that would limit or prevent access to oil and gas exploration and development within the 1002 area as envisioned by the Alaska National Interest Conservation Act.

Should your agency recommend to the President and Congress any action that further delays or blocks 1002 access such as applying a wilderness designation, you will be harming the citizens of Anchorage and the entire state, further subjecting America to greater dependence of foreign oil exporters and straining the relationship between Alaska and Washington, D.C., since our statehood compact is in large measure founded on the principle of resource development and the practical requirement for natural resource revenues.

By allowing oil and gas production within the 1002 area, Alaska citizens—both in Anchorage and throughout rural Alaska—are helped in many ways. With Prudhoe Bay oil production declining, the expected 1002 reserves could help sustain our government budgets. It will provide Alaska Natives and all citizens with access to training, employment and even economic survival. Accessing 1002 reserves will create thousands of jobs here and throughout America, help correct our trade imbalance and protect our national security.

No one cares more for Alaska's environment than Alaskans. We are confident that since exploration will occur at times when migrating species are absent from the 1002 area, the small footprint and very slight environmental impact are far outweighed by the public interest in decreasing dependence on foreign oil and supporting America's economic recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Sullivan".

Dan Sullivan
Mayor