



February 26, 2010

Kaja Brix
Assistant Regional Director
National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Protected Resources Division
P. O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802

Re: RIN 0648-XT72
Proposed Critical Habitat Designation for Cook Inlet Beluga Whales

Attn: Ellen Sebastian,

I was on the telephone Wednesday, February 24th and attended the hearing of HJR40. I did not get a chance to speak so here are my thoughts. Escopeta is in total support of HJR40 and stand with all those who testified yesterday.

Unfortunately Escopeta (and the people of Alaska indirectly) have already been affected by the Beluga proposal. Escopeta had contracts with very strong partners to bring a jack-up rig to the Cook Inlet this spring and drill the #1 Kitchen Lights Unit well. The project was put on hold indefinitely, due to the proposed Beluga Habitat designation. This is a fact, and once again places Escopeta on hold to develop the natural gas supply badly needed by each and every one of you. To date Escopeta has spent over \$20 million dollars on the Kitchen Lights Unit program, and we are ready to move forward. The Federal Government is now making it very difficult if not impossible for Escopeta and its partners to move forward because of the proposed Beluga designation. If Escopeta is not allowed to drill the Kitchen Lights Unit it will lose its significant investment in Alaska, and the State of Alaska and its people, will also lose a long term supply of natural gas, and the jobs and revenues created from the Kitchen Lights Unit development program. We all lose together, but by working together, we can all win.

I believe that this is just the beginning of serious financial trouble for all of you, if HJR40 does not stop the Federal Government from telling you how to run and operate your state.

Escopeta Oil is a small oil and gas company, but we are big on conservation. We believe in protecting every aspect of this great earth and all of its inhabitants. To this extent we must act with common sense, and combine conservation with business and commerce, which supports not only our industries and jobs, but also the future that lay in front of each of us. Escopeta has been put on hold by the Federal Government which has prevented Escopeta from moving forward to develop the Kitchen Lights Unit in 2010 as planned and promised. We are in total support of HJR40.

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Ellen, please pass my comments on to those you wish.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Davis', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Danny S. Davis

CC: Mr. Jason Brune
Mr. Bruce Webb