

2012 Resource Development Council Policy Positions

TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Advocate for tax policy and incentives that enhance the State of Alaska's competitiveness for all industries.
- Support efforts to bring more accountability to the appeals and litigation processes for community and resource development projects.
- Encourage the state to promote and defend the integrity of Alaska's permitting process and advocate for predictable, timely, and efficient state and federal permitting processes based on sound science and economic feasibility.
- Support measures to reverse the Alaska oil and gas production decline. This includes legislation that results in enhanced production from existing fields as well as new exploration and development.

General Issues

Fiscal Policy & Planning

- Advocate for tax policy and incentives that enhance the State of Alaska's competitiveness for all industries.
- Advocate for implementation of a comprehensive, responsible, and long-range state fiscal plan.
- Support efforts to hold the FY13 operating budget to FY10 levels of \$3.21 billion.
- Support some use of the Permanent Fund earnings as part of a fiscal plan.
- Support development of a state strategic economic development plan through the Alaska Forward Initiative.
- Oppose efforts to enshrine the Permanent Fund Dividend in the Alaska Constitution.

Access

- Advocate increased access to and across public lands for resource and community development.
- Advocate multiple-use of public lands.
- Continue to assert the state's rights on navigable waters and submerged lands.

Regulation/Permitting

- Support efforts to bring more accountability to the appeals and litigation processes for community and resource development projects.
- Encourage the state to promote and defend the integrity of Alaska's permitting process.
- Encourage the state to use all available avenues to ensure reasonable and predictable decision making under the CWA Section 404 permit program.
- Advocate predictable, timely, and efficient state and federal permitting processes based on sound science and economic feasibility.
- Provide adequate resources to permitting agencies for personnel, research, and science.
- Support the State of Alaska's efforts to challenge unwarranted Endangered Species Act listings and proposed critical habitat designations.
- Support reasonable mixing zones for resource and community development.
- Support efforts to reduce federal interference and devolve more authority to the states.

Infrastructure

- Support transportation and power projects that enhance resource and community development activities.

Education

- Support programs, including the Alaska Resource Education program, to educate students and the general public on responsible resource development activities in Alaska.
- Support efforts to provide for a skilled and trained Alaska workforce necessary to support resource development industries.

Industry Specific Issues

Oil & Gas

- Support measures to reverse the Alaska oil and gas production decline. This includes legislation that results in enhanced production from existing fields as well as new exploration and development.
- Encourage incentives and tax policy that increase the number of infield and exploratory wells drilled on state land.
- Encourage public policy and fiscal decisions to improve the commercial viability of developing Alaska's North Slope and Interior natural gas resources.
- Educate and advocate for opening the coastal plain of the ANWR, NPR-A, and the Alaskan OCS to oil and gas development.
- Support offshore oil and gas development and work to maximize benefits to Alaska through advocacy for federal revenue sharing and/or community impact assistance.

Energy

- Support simplified leasing and permitting of non-conventional fuel resources to encourage development of the state's resources and provide energy to local areas.
- Encourage development of new electrical generating and transmission systems to provide stable sources of electricity for economic development and existing consumers.
- Support utilization of Alaska's coal resources for value-added industries and power generation in addition to export to international markets.
- Support efforts to diversify Alaska's energy sources, including known renewable energy options.

Mining

- Encourage the expansion and increased production from existing deposits as well as new exploration and development of Alaska's mineral resources.
- Advocate continuation and expansion of airborne geophysical mapping and the on-the-ground follow up work required to realize the full benefits of the program.
- Support the state's efforts to maintain control of reclamation bonding.

Fisheries

- Support policies that ensure healthy, sustainable commercial, sport and subsistence fishery resources; access and markets for Alaska fishermen, and a reasonable and stable regulatory environment.
- Support funding of fisheries and marine mammal research.

Forestry

- Advocate for a reliable and economical long-term state and federal timber supply.
- Support adequate funding and enforcement of the Alaska Forest Practices Act.
- Encourage funding of forest management initiatives that address long-term forest health and reforestation.

Tourism

- Advocate for a positive business environment to promote continued growth of the cruise and tourism industries in Alaska.
- Advocate for equitable environmental laws for cruise ships.
- Advocate for the reinvestment of a portion of visitor industry-related tax revenues to market Alaska as a destination.
- Advocate additional aircraft landing sites and reduced restrictions on over-flights.
- Support South Denali infrastructure development to provide for a variety of visitor experiences and help accommodate future visitor needs in the region.