

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, November 1, 2007

- 1) Call to order – John Shively, President
- 2) Self Introductions
- 3) Headtable Introductions
- 4) Staff Report – Jason Brune, Executive Director
- 5) Program and Keynote Speaker:

**Reflections On Alaska's Relationship
With The Oil And Gas Industry**
Former Governor Tony Knowles

Next Meeting: November 14-15: Alaska Resources 2008, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel

Please add my name to RDC's mailing list

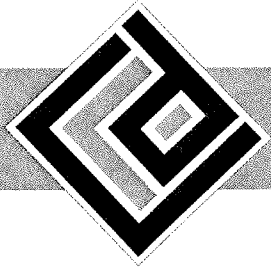
NAME/TITLE: _____

COMPANY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE/FAX/EMAIL: _____



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

Staff Report – November 1, 2007

- With only 19 days left in the special session, legislators are saying they have not heard from very many constituents. We need to change that. It is urgent that you contact your state senator and representative to urge him/her to keep tax increases out of the ACES bill (HB 2001/SB 2001). The House Judiciary Committee will be holding a public hearing on the bill tonight at 6 p.m. Please consider attending the hearing and presenting brief testimony (three minutes or less). If you are unable to attend, please email or fax committee members. In addition, the Senate and House Finance Committees are expected to hold hearings next week. It is vital that those opposing higher oil taxes attend and testify at this hearing! The date and time have not been set, but as soon as the hearing is scheduled, RDC will inform its members via email. RDC President John Shively and Secretary Scott Thorson have both testified in Juneau in opposition to higher taxes. RDC wishes to thank its members who have contacted legislators through email. RDC has prepared an Action Alert (in the packet), as well as other materials to help its members prepare comments. This information is available at www.akrdc.org.
- RDC has submitted detailed comments on the recent U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service reports predicting polar bears will be gone from Alaska within 50 years. The newly-released information, presented to the Service in the form of nine administrative reports, will be considered within the context of the Service's one-year review of listing the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act. Comments are in the packet, as well as a news release from Governor Palin's office.
- The Bureau of Land Management is accepting comments on its Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) Draft Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. RDC has released an action alert on this important issue. The comment deadline has been extended to November 6. RDC staff recently met with BLM officials to discuss the new plan and its various alternatives.
- Opponents of mining projects are gathering signatures to try to place an anti-mining initiative on the state ballot in 2008. Promoters of the initiative want the public to think it would only apply to the Pebble project. However, the initiative could shut down all existing major metal mines in Alaska and block new ones from being developed. See Council of Alaska Producers ad, as well as Truth About Pebble summary, in the packet.
- RDC staff attended the Alaska Forest Association's 50th annual conference, recently held in Ketchikan. Over 100 people attended the event, which focused on the ongoing timber supply crisis. The U.S. Forest Service offered less than 40 million board feet in timber sales from the Tongass last year. For decades, the annual harvest averaged 450 million board feet. Over the past several years, harvest levels have fallen below pre-World War II levels as environmental groups have routinely litigated timber sales. Although the State owns less than one percent of the land base in Southeast Alaska, it offered 60 million board feet in timber sales last year. Historically, the state has offered only a fraction of the timber made available by the federal government.
- RDC's 28th Annual Conference, *Alaska Resources 2008*, will take place on November 14-15 at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel. The agenda and updated list of current sponsors are included in the packet. RDC is expecting record attendance at this year's event.

Upcoming Events of Note:

- November 7-9 Alaska Miners Association Convention, Anchorage (info in packet)
- November 14-15 RDC's Annual Conference, *Alaska Resources 2008*, Anchorage (info in packet)
- November 29-30 Alaska State Chamber Legislative Tie-In

RDC Action Alert

Upcoming Public Hearing On Oil Taxes
Express Your Opinion. Take A Stand!

The Alaska Legislature is in the midst of an historic special session in Juneau to consider raising the petroleum profits tax on the oil industry. This Thursday, November 1st the House Judiciary Committee will be conducting a public hearing on the issue. It is vital that legislators hear from you. The time has come for those who oppose higher taxes to take a stand and express their opinion.

Action Requested:

1. Please attend and present testimony, three minutes or less (at your local Legislative Information Office). The hearing begins at 6:00 p.m. Urge the committee to keep taxes in check so Alaska can attract the investment it desperately needs to stabilize oil production and keep Alaska's private sector economy healthy.
2. If you are unable to attend the hearing, please email or fax committee members. Below is contact information, as well as talking points to consider for your testimony.
3. To view contact information for all members of the Alaska Legislature and your local newspaper (Letters to the Editor), as well as read RDC's special publication on the oil tax issue, please click on the link below:

<http://www.akrdc.org/issues/oilgas/specialsessionoiltaxes/>

Senate Judiciary Committee Contact Information:

Senator Hollis French
Senator_Hollis_French@legis.state.ak.us

Senate Charlie Huggins
Senator_Charlie_Huggins@legis.state.ak.us

Senator Lesil McGuire
Senator_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

Senator Bill Wielechowski
Senator_Bill_Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us

Senator Gene Therriault
Senator_Gene_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us

Talking Points

Points to consider for your comments:

- With the oil pipeline two-thirds empty and production continuing to decline, Alaska should be focused on doing whatever is necessary to increase oil production.
- Without the political will to create a sensible and balanced long-term fiscal plan for the state, another tax increase on the oil industry will create a reputation that Alaska is a location that is more interested in taxing industry than in growing industry. New taxes outside the framework of a comprehensive fiscal plan reinforces the image that Alaska is addicted to oil money. Consider revenue enhancements only within the confines of a fiscal plan.

- Other industries and businesses across Alaska's economic spectrum are worried higher taxes will further erode our fiscal stability. We run the risk of chilling our fragile investment climate across all resource industries.
- As investment and oil production wane under the weight of heavier taxes, all sectors in the state would experience a significant economic slowdown.
- Alaska fell to 47 out of 50 in a Forbes Magazine ranking of the best states to do business. The Legislature needs to restore fiscal stability and work to improve the business climate in Alaska, which in turn would boost confidence in private sector investment in our state. It's in the state's best interest to keep the private sector healthy, given most revenues flowing into the general fund come from private sector activity.
- New capital is the key to keeping the pipeline going. North Slope production is declining six percent annually and huge investment from the industry is needed to keep the production decline from getting worse. Can Alaska really afford to take the risk of discouraging future investment when 50 percent of our production ten years from now will come from "new oil" generated by future investment?
- Up to 70 percent of the new oil yet to be developed on the North Slope may come from existing fields, mostly Prudhoe Bay and Kuparuk, and only 30 percent from new exploration. The existing fields will likely require the bulk of new investment to develop heavy and viscous oil.
- Production could be significantly affected by changes in investment levels, particularly in the large fields. Up to 50 percent of today's production is based on investments made over the last four years, mainly in drilling.
- The state's long-term production forecast is very optimistic. Some of the "new" oil in that forecast has yet to be discovered and some of it is in deposits that are not economic to develop at this time. Higher taxes could make some of those projects more problematic, undercutting the state's forecast.
- Costs have skyrocketed for projects requiring state-of-the-art technology, which include enhanced oil recovery methods, heavy oil development and advanced drilling methods. Such projects might be shelved under a higher tax scenario. Costs must be factored in when looking at long-term North Slope developments.



Contact Your Legislator Today and Throughout the Session!

Anchorage/Eagle River

| Legislator | District | Phone (Juneau) | Email |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------|--|
| Rep. Bob Buch | 27 | 907-465-4968 | Rep Bob Buch@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Sharon Cissna | 22 | 907-465-3875 | Rep Sharon Cissna@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Harry Crawford | 21 | 907-465-3438 | Rep Harry Crawford@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom | 18 | 907-465-3783 | Rep Nancy Dahlstrom@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Mike Doogan | 25 | 907-465-4998 | Rep Mike Dooqan@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Anna Fairclough | 17 | 907-465-3777 | Rep Anna Fairclough@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Les Gara | 23 | 907-465-2647 | Rep Les Gara@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Berta Gardner | 24 | 907-465-4930 | Rep Berta Gardner@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Max Gruenberg, Jr. | 20 | 907-465-4940 | Rep Max Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Michael Hawker | 32 | 907-465-4949 | Rep Mike Hawker@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Lindsey Holmes | 26 | 907-465-4919 | Rep Lindsey Holmes@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Craig Johnson | 28 | 907-465-4993 | Rep Craig Johnson@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Bob Lynn | 31 | 907-465-4931 | Rep Bob Lynn@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Kevin Meyer | 30 | 907-465-4945 | Rep Kevin Meyer@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Bob Roses | 19 | 907-465-4939 | Rep Bob Roses@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Ralph Samuels | 29 | 907-465-2095 | Rep Ralph Samuels@legis.state.ak.us |
| Sen. Con Bunde | P | 907-465-4843 | Senator Con Bunde@legis.state.ak.us |
| Sen. John Cowdery | O | 907-465-3879 | Senator John Cowdery@legis.state.ak.us |
| Sen. Bettye Davis | K | 907-465-3822 | Senator Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us |
| Sen. Fred Dyson | I | 907-465-2199 | Senator Fred Dyson@legis.state.ak.us |
| Sen. Johnny Ellis | L | 907-465-3704 | Senator Johnny Ellis@legis.state.ak.us |
| Sen. Hollis French | M | 907-465-3892 | Senator Hollis French@legis.state.ak.us |
| Sen. Lesil McGuire | N | 907-465-2995 | Senator Lesil McGuire@legis.state.ak.us |
| Sen. Bill Wielechowski | J | 907-465-2435 | Senator Bill Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us |

Mat-Su

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|--------------|--|
| Rep. Carl Gatto | 13 | 907-465-3743 | Rep Carl Gatto@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Wes Keller | 14 | 907-465-2186 | Rep Wes Keller@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Mark Neuman | 15 | 907-465-2679 | Rep Mark Neuman@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Bill Stoltze | 16 | 907-465-4958 | Rep Bill Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us |
| Sen. Lyda Green | G | 907-465-6600 | Senator Lyda Green@legis.state.ak.us |
| Sen. Charlie Huggins | H | 907-465-3878 | Senator Charlie Huggins@legis.state.ak.us |

Kenai/Kodiak

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----|--------------|--|
| Rep. Mike Chenault | 34 | 907-465-3779 | Rep Mike Chenault@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux | 36 | 907-465-2487 | Rep Gabrielle LeDoux@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Kurt Olson | 33 | 907-465-2693 | Rep Kurt Olson@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Paul Seaton | 35 | 907-465-2689 | Rep Paul Seaton@legis.state.ak.us |
| Sen. Gary Stevens | R | 907-465-4925 | Senator Gary Stevens@legis.state.ak.us |
| Sen. Thomas Wagoner | Q | 907-465-2828 | Senator Thomas Wagoner@legis.state.ak.us |

Interior

| | | | |
|------------------------|----|--------------|--|
| Rep. John Coghill, Jr. | 11 | 907-465-3719 | Rep John Coghill@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. David Guttenberg | 8 | 907-465-4457 | Rep David Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. John Harris | 12 | 907-465-4859 | Rep John Harris@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Scott Kawasaki | 9 | 907-465-3466 | Rep Scott Kawasaki@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Michael Kelly | 7 | 907-465-4976 | Rep Mike Kelly@legis.state.ak.us |
| Rep. Jay Ramras | 10 | 907-465-3004 | Rep Jay Ramras@legis.state.ak.us |

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|--------------|---|
| Sen. Gene Therriault | F | 907-465-4797 | <u>Senator_Gene_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us</u> |
| Sen. Joe Thomas | D | 907-465-2327 | <u>Senator_Joe_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us</u> |
| Sen. Gary Wilken | E | 907-465-3709 | <u>Senator_Gary_Wilken@legis.state.ak.us</u> |

Juneau/Southeast

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------|---|
| Rep. Andrea Doll | 4 | 907-465-3744 | <u>Rep_Andrea_Doll@legis.state.ak.us</u> |
| Rep. Kyle Johansen | 1 | 907-465-3424 | <u>Rep_Kyle_Johansen@legis.state.ak.us</u> |
| Rep. Beth Kerttula | 3 | 907-465-4766 | <u>Rep_Beth_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us</u> |
| Rep. Peggy Wilson | 2 | 907-465-3824 | <u>Rep_Peggy_Wilson@legis.state.ak.us</u> |
| Sen. Kim Elton | B | 907-465-4947 | <u>Senator_Kim_Elton@legis.state.ak.us</u> |
| Sen. Albert Kookesh | C | 907-465-3473 | <u>Senator_Albert_Kookesh@legis.state.ak.us</u> |
| Sen. Bert Stedman | A | 907-465-3873 | <u>Senator_Bert_Stedman@legis.state.ak.us</u> |

Rural Areas

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----|--------------|---|
| Rep. Bryce Edgmon | 37 | 907-465-4451 | <u>Rep_Bryce_Edgmon@legis.state.ak.us</u> |
| Rep. Richard Foster | 39 | 907-465-3789 | <u>Rep_Richard_Foster@legis.state.ak.us</u> |
| Rep. Reggie Joule | 40 | 907-465-4833 | <u>Rep_Reggie_Joule@legis.state.ak.us</u> |
| Rep. Mary Nelson | 38 | 907-465-4942 | <u>Rep_Mary_Nelson@legis.state.ak.us</u> |
| Rep. Woodie Salmon | 6 | 907-465-4527 | <u>Rep_Woodie_Salmon@legis.state.ak.us</u> |
| Rep. William Thomas, Jr. | 5 | 907-465-3732 | <u>Rep_Bill_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us</u> |
| Sen. Lyman Hoffman | S | 907-465-4453 | <u>Senator_Lyman_Hoffman@legis.state.ak.us</u> |
| Sen. Donald Olson | T | 907-465-3707 | <u>Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us</u> |



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

Action Alert: Northeast Planning Area - National Petroleum Reserve Alaska

Deadline for comment is November 6, 2007

Overview:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS). This supplement addresses a list of issues and contains a range of alternatives regarding the BLM's administration of public lands within the planning area. These alternatives are essentially unchanged from those analyzed in the Northeast NPR-A Final Amended IAP/EIS and corrects inadequacies in that plan identified in a 2006 decision of the U.S. District Court of Alaska. The Court found that the amended 2006 IAP/EIS failed to fully consider the cumulative effects of oil and gas leasing in the planning area and in the adjacent Northwest NPR-A planning area. The new supplement adds this analysis.

Under the recently-released IAP/EIS, 373,000 acres north and east of Teshekpuk Lake is further evaluated for leasing. This area was off-limits in a 1998 plan crafted by the Clinton administration for the Northeast area of the reserve, but was open to leasing in the amended 2005 plan. This area is considered to be among the most oil-rich acreage in NPR-A, perhaps containing two billion of barrels of oil. The area also contains large populations of waterfowl and caribou. It is coveted by local residents for subsistence hunting.

The four alternatives in the 2007 amendment range from opening 87 percent to 100 percent of the 4.6 million acres of the Northeast planning area to oil and gas exploration and development. While the agency clearly supported increased leasing in the 2005 plan over the 1998 proposal (Alternative A–No Action), the latest version does not indicate which alternative of the four BLM prefers. The alternatives offer two types of mitigation for impacts to resources – prescriptive to performance-based. Given industry's track record of coexisting with wildlife on the North Slope and the technological advances of the past decade, which have greatly reduced the development footprint, RDC supports Alternative C, full leasing.

Action Requested:

RDC urges its members to submit comments encouraging BLM to provide access to the Northeast planning area's richest oil and gas prospects. Alternative C would provide such access.

Submit written comments to:

Northeast NPR-A Supplemental IAP/EIS Comments
ENSR Project Office
1835 South Bragaw Street, Suite 490
Anchorage, AK 99508
Faxes may be sent to (888) 907-3677

Deadline for comment is November 6, 2007

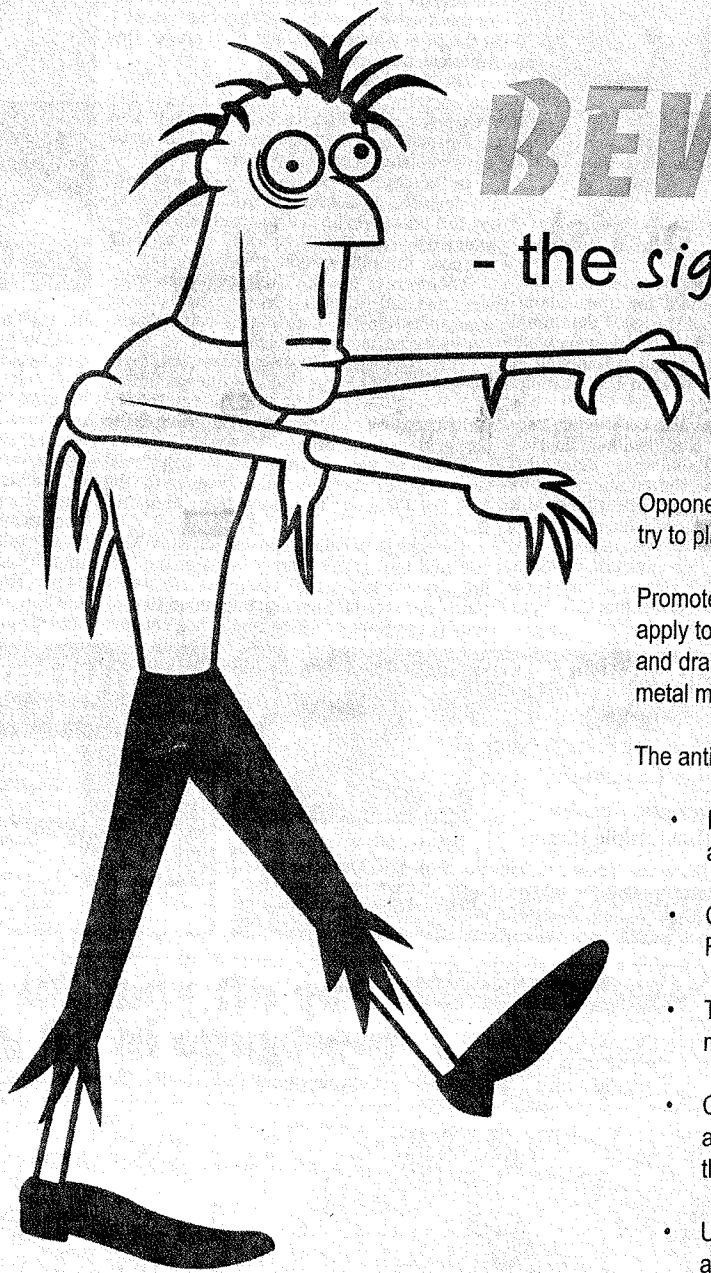
Points to consider for your comments:

- Given NPR-A was specifically designated by Congress for the production of energy resources and the need for new oil production has increased, it is vital that BLM provide access to the Northeast planning area's greatest prospects. Alternative C would provide such access.

- All of the producing fields on the North Slope are located within 25 miles of the coast. Eliminating substantial acreage within this belt could preclude the discovery of a major deposit.
- The areas currently off-limits in Alternative A may contain more than two billion barrels of recoverable oil.
- Industry's track record on the North Slope and the technological advances of the past decade, which have greatly reduced the development footprint, support full leasing.
- Alternative C would utilize prescriptive to performance-based standards and procedures to mitigate impacts of energy development. In addition, seasonal stipulations and other protective measures would be applied to safeguard sensitive areas. While Alternative C would open 100 percent of the area's 4.6 million acres to oil and gas exploration, permanent facilities would be prohibited on more than 1,113,000 acres.
- The industry has proven it can operate in a manner that protects the environment. The Arctic wildlife and environment can and will be preserved while petroleum resources are developed. Industry employs a variety of measures and operating procedures to mitigate impacts and protect environmentally sensitive areas.
- Oil and gas development in the petroleum reserve would benefit the economy by creating increased revenues and employment, while enhancing energy and economic security.
- Revenues and employment generated by oil and gas development would be significantly greater under Alternative C than under the no action alternative.
- The Department of Energy estimates the contribution of North Slope crude to domestically produced oil supplies would decline from 18 percent to 14 percent by 2020, but such a decline could be mitigated by opening Northeast NPR-A to oil and gas exploration. Projected production declines could potentially be reversed, depending upon how much additional oil is produced from NPR-A, but potential could be severely compromised if access is not provided to oil-rich areas.
- While opponents claim the changes to BLM's amended plan are merely cosmetic, the analysis of the increased activity in the 2007 draft expanded and substantially revised consideration of additional measures for minimizing impacts. BLM also considered results of recent scientific studies completed since 2005.
- The 2007 draft also addresses the cumulative impact of increased activity in the Northeast planning area when combined with increased activity in the Northwest planning area.
- The 2007 draft also takes into account issues ranging from climate change and potential Endangered Species Act protections for polar bears to the rising price of oil.
- Authorizing leasing is but a first step in opening an area to oil and gas development. There will be additional opportunities throughout the process, through the application of numerous permit approvals and other actions, to protect natural resources.

Deadline for comment is November 6, 2007

Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.
121 West Fireweed, Suite 250 Anchorage, AK 99503
resources@akrdc.org Phone: 907.276.0700 Fax: 907.276.3887



BEWARE

- the *signature* zombies

Opponents of mining projects are now gathering signatures to try to place an anti-mining initiative on the state ballot.

Promoters of this initiative want you to think it would only apply to the potential Pebble Project. In fact, it's a deceptive and drastic proposal that could shut down all existing major metal mines in Alaska and prohibit any new ones.

The anti-mining initiative:

- Is so broad and badly written that it would affect all major metal mines.
- Could force the shutdown of existing mines, including Red Dog, Fort Knox, Pogo and Greens Creek.
- Threatens thousands of existing and future jobs, many in rural Alaska.
- Could cost up to \$10 billion in state revenues according to impact assessments completed by the Department of Natural Resources.
- Undermines a fair and open environmental review and permitting process.

Don't get caught by the signature zombies.

Let's keep the benefits of mining on track for Alaska -- for generations to come.

Don't *sign* if you don't know.



Don't throw your signature – and rights – away.

Special interest groups are circulating a petition under the guise of trying to stop the Pebble project. But, this initiative would affect far more than one project and could shut down all large-scale mining in Alaska.

IF YOU WANT a sustainable economy for rural Alaska, DO NOT SIGN THIS PETITION. We have limited opportunities and this initiative would destroy all hope of developing an economy that provides jobs for our youth in the villages.

This initiative could:

- Prohibit development of prospects like Donlin Creek, which brings jobs, hope and revenue to the Calista region.
- Shut down existing mines, including Red Dog, Fort Knox, Pogo, Kensington, Greens Creek, Rock Creek and Big Hurrah.
- Unfairly TAKE JOBS AND REVENUE AWAY FROM RURAL ALASKA.
- End large-scale mining in Alaska and the many benefits it provides to all Alaskans.
- Direct benefits like the \$10.9 million Red Dog expects to pay this year to the Northwest Arctic Borough as their payment in lieu of taxes.
- Jeopardize thousands of jobs that keep village economies healthy. Red Dog alone paid more than \$20 million in wages to the Native people working at the mine.
- Threaten tens of thousands of dollars in contributions to local non-profits and scholarship programs to train Alaska Natives for Alaska mining jobs.

The Red Dog Mine provides the economic engine for the Northwest Arctic Borough, its residents and all Alaska Natives through resource sharing.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO ENDANGER THIS RELATIONSHIP.

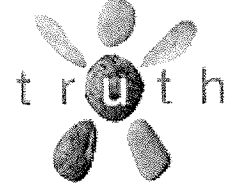
Learn as much as you can and say "no thanks" when the petition gatherers ask you to sign the anti-mining initiative. The initiative is not about one project. It's about an effort to shut down Alaska's future.

If you are having trouble viewing this E-newsletter, [click here](#).

October 30, 2007

Truth About Pebble

[Website](#) | [About Pebble](#) | [About Us](#) | [Take Action](#) | [News and Media](#) | [Signup](#)



Dear Friend;

The following message concerning an anti-mining ballot initiative is from the Council of Alaska Producers and was distributed to Alaska policy leaders on October 26th.

Opponents of mining in the State of Alaska are now gathering voter signatures on petitions to try to place the initiative on the 2008 state ballot. The initiative would have far-reaching negative consequences for Alaska's economy and rural communities by shutting down existing metal mines and prohibiting new ones. It is opposed by the Alaska Federation of Natives and others who support the responsible development of Alaska's natural resources.

Please read the following facts about this damaging initiative and forward this email along to family, friends, colleagues and anyone who cares about fairness, jobs and the future of the State of Alaska.

The Truth About Pebble

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL ALASKANS -- From the Council of Alaska Producers

The Anti-Mining Initiative Could Shut Down All Major Metal Mines in Alaska

Opponents of mining projects are now gathering voter signatures on petitions to try to place an anti-mining initiative on the 2008 Alaska state ballot. Promoters of this initiative want you to think it would only apply to the potential Pebble Project. ***In fact, it's a deceptive and drastic proposal that could shut down all existing major metal mines in Alaska and prohibit any new ones.***

The anti-mining initiative is so broad and badly written that it would affect all major metal mines – both

Please Feel Free to Tell a Friend

E-mail: _____

E-mail: _____

E-mail: _____

existing and future – on all State, Federal, University, Borough, and Native land. Its provisions would effectively prohibit the operation of any major mineral mines even if they comply with all existing State and Federal environmental regulations. For example, the fine print in the initiative would prohibit the operation of any major metal mine over 640 acres if it creates any waste rock or tailings. Obviously, it is impossible for any mine to operate without creating waste rock or tailings.

The anti-mining initiative is not required to ensure clean water and its effects are not limited just to future mines. The provisions of the initiative would prohibit any water discharge from a major metal mine – even if it meets all existing water quality standards. Promoters of the initiative claim it exempts mines that have “all their permits.” But as those of us in the industry know, working mines need to get new permits and permit renewals on a regular basis. Working mines never have “all” the permits they will ever need.

Lt. Governor Sean Parnell and Richard Mylius, Director of the Alaska Division of Mining, Land and Water, have formally reviewed the anti-mining initiative. They both concluded that **the initiative would prohibit the potential Donlin Creek and Pebble projects and all other future major metal mines – and could force the shutdown of existing mines, including Red Dog, Fort Knox, Pogo, and Greens Creek.**

The anti-mining initiative threatens thousands of existing and future jobs – and up to \$10 billion in state revenues. It would be devastating to mining employees and their families, to local businesses that provide goods and services to Alaska mines, and to many communities near mining projects – especially in rural areas of Alaska where there are few job opportunities. A fiscal impact assessment issued by the Department of Natural Resources estimates the State of Alaska would lose up to \$10 billion or more in revenues if the anti-mining initiative passes.

The anti-mining initiative undermines a fair and open environmental review and permitting process. Alaska’s metal mines already have to meet strict State and Federal environmental laws and regulations. There is already a rigorous State and Federal permitting process. Most of us would agree that a decision on whether to prohibit or allow a mining project should not be made until all necessary environmental studies have been completed. Each project should be judged on its own merits. But the anti-mining initiative would arbitrarily prohibit mining projects statewide and shut down mines without any environmental review process – and without any scientific evaluation of whether a mine project actually would harm

the environment.

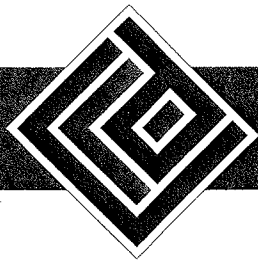
You can help stop the drastic anti-mining initiative by not signing it and by talking with your family and friends. Explain that the initiative is really a deceptive proposal that should not be signed or supported by Alaskans who care about fairness, jobs and the future of our state.

For more information, contact Council of Alaska Producers, Karl Hanneman President, 907-586-2425.

Contact Information

Truth About Pebble
P.O. Box 91860 • Anchorage, Alaska 99517
Phone: (907) 382-6149 • Fax: (907) 276-1042 • truthaboutpebble.org

[Update My Profile](#) - [Unsubscribe](#)



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

Founded 1975

Executive Director
Jason W. Brune

2007-2008 Executive Committee
John T. Shively, President
Rick Rogers, Sr. Vice President
Wendy Lindskoog, Vice President
Scott L. Thorson, Secretary
Stephanie Madsen, Treasurer
Patty Bielawski
Allen Bingham
Phil Cochrane
Marilyn Crockett
Steve Denton
Jeffrey Y. Foley
Stan Foo
Paul S. Glavinovich
Mark Hanley
Craig A. Haymes
Teresa Imm
Thomas Maloney
Denise Michels
Lisa M. Parker
Keith Sanders
Robert B. Stiles
Brian Wenzel

Directors
Tim Arnold
F. Gregory Baker
John A. Barnes
Mark Begich
Jason Bergerson
John Binkley
Bruce Botelho
Frank M. Brown
Al Burch
Patrick Carter
Richard Cattanaach
James L. Cloud
Stephen M. Connelly
Robert E. Cox
Paula P. Easley
Ella Ede
Joe Everhart
Eric Fjelstad
Carol Fraser
Becky Gay
Charles J. Greene
Scott Habberstad
John K. Handeland
Karl Hanneman
Rick P. Harris
Len Horst
Mike Jungreis
Diane Keller
Frank V. Kelty
Kip Knudson
Thomas G. Krzewinski
Francis LaChapelle
Thomas Lovas
Sean Magee
David L. Matthews
Karen Matthias
Ron McPheters
James Mery
Lance Miller
Jim Palmer
Tom Panamaroff
Judy Patrick
Debbie Reinwand
Elizabeth Rensch
Thyes J. Shaub
Lorna Shaw
Kenneth Sheffield
Keith N. Silver
Jeanine St. John
William Stewart
John L. Sturgeon
Jim Taro
Cam Toohy
Clayton Walker
John Williams

Ex-Officio Members
Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Congressman Don Young
Governor Sarah Palin

October 22, 2007

Dr. Rosa Meehan
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Marine Mammals Management Office
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503

Attention: Polar Bear Finding

Dear Dr. Meehan:

This letter is in response to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's request for comments on the nine U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) research papers analyzing polar bear population status and threats. These papers will be used by the Service in conjunction with other information gathered over the past year in reaching a final decision on whether to list the polar bear as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The Resource Development Council (RDC) strongly opposes such a listing as the polar bear is clearly not a species in need of recovery, given its healthy population status and extensive protections now in place. Polar bears and their habitats are sufficiently managed and protected by international and domestic agreements, conservation programs, regulatory mechanisms and laws, including the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism and fisheries industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor and industry support firms. Our purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through responsible resource development.

RDC and its members support ongoing polar bear research, management and conservation. A number of our members include major industry stakeholders operating within the historic and current range of the polar bear. These stakeholders have been major contributors to the extensive research conducted on polar bears and have played a

significant role in advancing the scientific community's understanding of the polar bear and its habitat.

RDC submitted comments on the proposed listing of polar bears April 9, 2007. Given the USGS papers suffer from the same shortcomings and limitations of the proposed listing, we believe our comments on the proposed listing remain relevant. As a result, we are incorporating portions of those comments in this letter, and attaching our spring comments, as well.

The Service's Information Quality Guidelines require peer review of influential scientific information with respect to the proposed rule. RDC questions whether the agency has complied with these guidelines in regard to the nine USGS reports. It is apparent through the timing of the reports that there has not been a thorough peer review of this new information. Such a review must be done, and to our knowledge, one has not occurred as of the present.

Our review of the USGS reports shows their conclusions to be extreme. These conclusions, whether valid or not, will be used by non-development interests in their efforts to list the polar bear. Such a listing will be used to advance their agenda on global climate change and block energy development in the Arctic and elsewhere. (See page five and six of these comments)

Listing Will Have No Effect On Status Of Polar Bears

As noted in our April comments, it is not clear how, or if, an endangered species listing would help polar bears. Given the limitations of the ESA itself, the listing will not stop sea ice from melting. In fact, the USGS concludes that restrictions on human activities would not prevent polar bear habitat – Arctic sea ice – from disappearing during the summer months and the bears themselves from becoming extinct in the Polar Basin Divergent and Seasonal Ecoregions. This extreme conclusion alone calls into doubt the usefulness of the ESA and should invalidate its application.

If an ESA listing is not going to stop polar bear habitat from melting away and arrest the threat to the bears themselves, why spend the time and money and impose significant burdens on industry, society, landowners and others when there is no benefit to the species? If there is nothing humans can do to reverse the effects of climate change, protections given under the ESA are meaningless.

RDC urges the Service not to list the polar bear if there is no direct benefit to the species. While scientists are unable to find meaningful solutions to head off further melting of sea ice, RDC agrees with the Alaska Oil and Gas Association and other organizations that invoking the ESA as a policy fix is not the answer. However, if further consideration is given to an ESA listing, the Service should

clearly identify and make public – prior to making a decision – how the ESA and the designation of critical habitat for polar bears will slow the loss of sea ice. Specifically, we would like to know how critical habitat designations – required by an ESA listing for the recovery of a species – will reverse the global phenomena of climate change. Ironically, if the conclusions cited in the USGS papers ultimately prove accurate, polar bears will inevitably decline in population until they are extinct. Under such an outcome, the Service will fail in any recovery efforts under the ESA.

Studies Are Filled With Uncertainty And Doubt

Like the proposed listing itself, all of the major studies conducted by USGS are filled with uncertainty and doubt. The USGS itself admits to the limitations inherent in their papers and concedes that “uncertainty in projections of Arctic climate change is relatively high.” These limitations and high levels of uncertainty in climate change models call into question any conclusions and severely compromise the overall effort.

The USGS papers have little or nothing of substance to offer with regard to listing the polar bear. Rather, they reaffirm the issues raised in our spring comments and those of others with regard to the ability to determine with a degree of certainty that polar bears are truly threatened.

The USGS papers do not change the fact that the proposed listing is unprecedented and based on highly-speculative risks outlined in carbon-emission scenarios and various climate change models. In fact, the USGS admits its models are highly unreliable and its papers reaffirm that there continues to be a lack of science demonstrating in a *reliable* manner that polar bears are *likely* to become extinct in the *foreseeable future*. A key principal issue in this debate continues to be whether the extent and pace of summer sea ice decline in the Arctic over the next century is *reliably predictable* and, if so, is *likely* to threaten the polar bear with extinction.

Studies Ignore Fundamental Fact: Polar Bears Are Highly Adaptive

Our previous comments noted that polar bears have survived other periods of global warming – some so severe that the Arctic lost most of its ice, including vast areas of Greenland, which are now ice-covered. Unfortunately, the USGS failed to acknowledge previous warming periods and the polar bears’ adaptability and survival during these times. In its study, “Predicting the Future Distribution of Polar Bear Habitat in the Polar Basin...” the USGS instead focused on “optimum” habitat and was designed for a species with “specialized habitats.” As a result, the study has little or no relevance to adaptive species like polar bears, given it ignored any adaptation of the bears to their environment. In our opinion, the lack of recognition of polar bear adaptability is a fatal flaw in this study.

While the matter of global warming requires continued monitoring, a proposed listing of the polar bear under the ESA is not warranted, for a number of reasons, as outlined in our April comments. These factors and concerns place this species in a position where an ESA listing cannot be justified.

Polar Bear Population Is Stable

The proposed rule is unprecedented in that it would invoke the ESA to list a species whose population worldwide has more than doubled over the past 40 years. In fact, polar bear populations are stable or increasing, despite the warming trend of the past 20-plus years and the recession of sea ice. This fact is a strong indication that protections in place today are effective in protecting polar bears.

No species has ever been listed under the ESA where the scientific consensus indicated the species continued to occupy its entire historical range at sustaining population levels. In Alaska, polar bears are abundant and are near historic population highs. Of all the animals and plants currently listed, no listings occurred when the animal or plant was at the level of health the polar bear finds itself in today.

In its petition to list the polar bear under the ESA, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) claims that the species' current health is irrelevant. It argues that climate change will threaten polar bears in the future. However, the leading indicators of a species risk in ESA listings are current population, trend and the range of the species. Because of their healthy status in these leading indicators, a listing of the polar bear would be unprecedented.

The USGS papers point out that the loss of sea ice is greater than anticipated in most models, but they are silent on a key point: despite the greater loss in sea ice, polar bear populations remain stable and healthy across their historic range. If the population hasn't shown a corresponding fall with the reduction in Arctic sea ice, then how can the USGS predict with any degree of certainty that further reduction in sea ice will cause a population fall so extreme as to cause extinction of the species?

The State of Alaska in its preliminary comments on the proposed rule took exception to the presumption that sea ice is the most important factor for the survival of polar bears. The State agreed with the Inupiat Eskimos that polar bears do not use the majority of the ice cap, but favor near-shore ice, and that any warming of the arctic may create new near-shore ice or other suitable habitat for the bears. The State also noted polar bears are adaptable to use land for

hunting and to den. Data from several areas indicate that bears are already adapting to alternative food sources.

Unintended economic consequences and impacts to energy production

RDC is very concerned that a listing of polar bears under the ESA could result in severe unintended economic consequences to both the national and Alaska economies and significantly impact U.S. energy production. The listing could even jeopardize the economic viability of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline and therefore kill prospects for its construction and delivery of gas to Lower 48 markets.

If the Service decides to list polar bears, all federal agencies must evaluate their actions to ensure that activities they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the bears or are not likely to result in adverse modifications to any critical habitat. Depending upon how a final listing is codified, requirements under Section 7 of the ESA could be expanded to include consultations with the Service for any federal permitting and funding that involves air quality, transportation and emissions. Thus, a listing could make it difficult to obtain any federal or state permits that have the potential to affect polar bears and their habitat – directly or indirectly. This could discourage investment in new energy projects in Alaska and elsewhere, and at the very least, result in delays and higher costs with no corresponding benefit to polar bears.

Proponents of the proposed listing have openly called for the entire energy-rich North Slope of Alaska to be designated critical habitat and have admitted their goal is to force the U.S. government to address global climate change. Some have made it clear they intend to push the Service to use the ESA to force consultations on power plants and other projects that could contribute to global warming, and therefore endanger polar bear habitat. They want to use the ESA to limit production of fossil fuels and impose mandatory controls and taxes on carbon emissions. As noted in our April comments, such actions would be an improper use of the law and well beyond its limitations.

RDC applauds the Interior Department for acknowledging that it does not intend to use an ESA listing to address carbon emissions or other issues of global climate change. The department has correctly assessed the law gives it no room to address the broader issues that may be causing receding ice. However, our concern is if a listing moves forward, “open season” will likely occur as any threat, whether it is perceived or real, would invite third-party litigants to challenge virtually any project that involves, directly or indirectly, carbon dioxide emissions.

For example, lawsuits, using the listing as a mechanism to address the broader issue of global climate change could target development of coal deposits and the

construction of new coal plants. Plants that burn coal now supply more than 50 percent of the nation's electricity. It is a low-cost and abundant fuel, but burning less of it would drive up the cost of electricity and impact all Americans. While Americans generally agree they should do their part to reduce greenhouse gases and limit the impacts of climate change, most are not aware they will personally have to pay for it.

In addition, it is highly probable that among the effects of a listing will be lawsuits to force the agency to designate large portions of Alaska's arctic, including the coastal North Slope, Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea as critical habitat. These areas, which include the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska, hold immense oil and gas potential and are the future for the oil and gas industry in the 49th state. Such development would greatly benefit Alaska and its residents, and would play a major role in boosting domestic energy production. However, once critical habitat designations are in place, more litigation challenging development in or near those designations would likely occur and have a negative effect on new energy exploration in highly prospective areas.

The potential economic implications to Alaska of a polar bear listing under the ESA are frightening. Ninety percent of the Alaska's revenue base comes from North Slope oil production. An ESA listing and third-party lawsuits from litigants with a variety of motivations would, at a minimum, discourage investment, which would likely result in less exploration, translating into lower production, which in turn would constrict revenues to the state, compromising its ability to provide services to rural and urban Alaskans. A more dire outcome would likely occur if litigants were to challenge virtually every oil and gas lease sale and project near or in critical habitat areas. On a national scale, litigants could effectively hold the nation's best onshore and offshore energy prospects hostage as they move to block virtually any new oil, gas and other fossil fuel development in the Arctic. This could bring the economy, especially in Alaska, to its knees and sharply raise the cost of energy for all Americans.

One only needs to look at the impact third-party litigation has had on the forest products industry in Southeast Alaska. Timber sales in this region are routinely litigated by non-development interests. As a result, the U.S. Forest Service has been unable to supply adequate amounts of timber allowed by the current Tongass National Forest land management plan to the few surviving local saw mills. The industry is now a mere shadow of itself, losing thousands of jobs over the past ten years. Local communities have experienced severe economic downturns and the annual harvest from the Tongass has fallen beyond 50-year lows.

In response to those who claim an ESA listing of polar bears would have no negative impact on Alaska, the oil industry and local communities, the Service

should consider the severe impacts the forest products industry experienced from the listing of the Northern Spotted Owl under the ESA. Beginning in the late 1980s, lawsuits to protect the habitat of the spotted owl withdrew huge acreage of national forests from timber harvesting. President Clinton's Northwest Forest Plan set aside 24.5 million acres for spotted owl recovery under the ESA. This caused an 80 percent drop in overall timber harvests in the Pacific Northwest, which must be considered an opportunity loss. The estimated losses alone resulting from the owl recovery plan ranged from a low of \$33 billion to a high of \$46 billion. Those losses were borne out by mill closures and job losses. Since 1989, when environmental lawsuits began, through 1994, 424 lumber mills closed in the Pacific Northwest alone. More than 27,000 loggers and mill workers lost their jobs. Furthermore, as logging communities across the Northwest lost direct timber-related jobs, the jobs of thousands of other employees – private and public – providing goods and services to local timber-dependent communities dried up.

Additionally, numerous local communities lost major revenues derived from the forest products industry. As mills closed and employees lost their jobs, the revenue base of many communities fell sharply. Lower revenues to state and federal governments also resulted when the sale of national forest timber products fell sharply. Even local school districts lost funding as timber-dependent counties lost tax income, population and commercial activity.

The economic costs of mill closures and lost jobs also had severe social consequences. As more logging families lost their incomes and became unable to pay their debts, the pressures within families increased, leading to alcohol and drug abuse, drunk driving arrests, school dropouts, domestic violence, and family breakups.

The unwarranted listing of polar bears could result in similar economic and social impacts, especially in Alaska, without any added benefit to the bear.

Listing could jeopardize Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline

An ESA polar bear listing could jeopardize the long-term economics of the proposed Alaska gas pipeline. The pipeline is a top national energy priority and is considered vital to Alaska's future. The gas pipeline is projected to begin generating revenues to the state about the time oil production and corresponding revenues from such production falls below levels required to sustain state services to residents.

New natural gas discoveries beyond the North Slope's 35 trillion cubic feet of known reserves are vital to ensuring the long-term profitability of any gas pipeline. But an ESA listing with its subsequent critical habitat designations and

third-party lawsuits could potentially block access to highly prospective areas that may hold up to 200 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. If this were to happen, investors would simply direct their capital toward other opportunities in their global portfolios. Unfortunately, this would only serve to crimp domestic production and result in an increase in America's reliance on foreign sources of energy. Moreover, since environmental laws and regulations tend to be weaker outside America, an increase in foreign energy production to satisfy America's domestic energy needs would likely result in increased carbon emissions abroad.

Conclusion

Polar bears and their habitat are well managed and protected by numerous international and domestic agreements, regulatory mechanisms and laws, including the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and coastal zone management programs at the federal, state and local levels. These extensive legal authorities and agreements make the polar bear one of the most protected species in the world, and provide more than adequate basis for addressing realistic threats. In fact, these regulatory mechanisms have resulted in the successful conservation and management of polar bears on a global scale. One only needs to look at population levels today and compare them to 30 years ago.

A decision on whether or not to list polar bear should be based on reality, not on highly uncertain and unreliable computer modeling that does not consider historical and observational data. The USGS studies ignore the fundamental facts that polar bears are healthy in population size and distribution, existing laws and regulatory mechanisms are working, polar bears are adaptive to change and they are one of the most protected species in the world.

RDC suggests the Service give serious consideration to the appropriate use of the ESA and recognize the precedent a polar bear listing would set. RDC strongly opposes listing the polar bear under the ESA and respectfully requests the Service to acknowledge such a listing is an inappropriate use of the law and that application of the ESA would fail to halt the loss of sea ice in the Arctic.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Carl Portman
Deputy Director

cc: The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Governor Sarah Palin



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 07-212

Governor Palin: Rely on Scientific Information, Not Political Rhetoric

October 29, 2007, Juneau, Alaska – Governor Sarah Palin on Friday called on Congressman Brad Miller to use scientific information, not political rhetoric, to set important public policy issues.

Miller recently tried to undermine the State of Alaska's April 2007 comments on the proposed listing of polar bears as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. He attempted to discredit one of 54 studies the State had cited. The study was one of many supporting Alaska's position that polar bears should not be listed. The State concluded the best available scientific and commercial data do not demonstrate that the polar bear is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

In an October 17 news release and letter to ExxonMobil Corporation, Rep. Miller (D-North Carolina) alleged that the scientific study published in the September 2007 edition of *Ecological Complexity* was just an opinion piece by unqualified individuals tainted by industry funding. The Governor responded that Miller's unfounded criticism could chill scientific debate.

The study that Miller questioned is a collaboration of seven respected scientists with worldwide expertise in climate and environmental research. None pretend to be polar bear biologists, as Miller claimed. Also contrary to Miller's claims, the study was published after extensive review more than a year following its initial submittal for publication.

The study explores many variables, such as solar cycles, that may be significant factors affecting Arctic surface air temperatures and sea ice conditions. The climate models used by the Fish and Wildlife Service in the proposal to list polar bears did not adequately address these variables. The study also explains factors affecting polar bear survival published by other scientists, which need to be considered when evaluating how populations may respond to climate change.

Miller also questioned the study's validity because two years after the data analysis was completed but prior to publication, one of the collaborating scientists received partial funding from an oil company for additional research on temperatures and sea ice around Hudson Bay.

"If the government is going to discredit all such scientists' research, as Miller does, needed research will not be done," Palin said. "Competent scientists will no longer be willing to undertake required studies or accept industry grants to conduct vital research."

Many federal and state agencies routinely require oil companies to hire scientists to conduct research on the environment and to analyze impacts of activities. If industry funding discredits researchers and their research, then the recent USGS reports would also be discredited. One author listed on six of the nine USGS reports was associated with at least five other studies from 2004 through 2007 that acknowledged partial funding from oil companies. At least eight of the nine USGS reports had at least one author associated with a recent study acknowledging oil company funding.

"The United States is a world leader in science because it encourages academic debate among scientists," said Governor Palin. "We stand by our use of the study and by our commitment to free and open scientific debate. Just as importantly, we also stand by our conviction, as Alaskans, to be responsible stewards of this Great Land and the often fragile ecosystems it supports."

###

[Click here for a copy of Governor Palin's letter.](#)

Alaska Resources 2008

Wednesday

- 7:00 a.m. **Registration/Check-In/Exhibits Open**
Eye-Opener Reception In Exhibit Area
- 8:00 **Opening Remarks**
John Shively, President, RDC, Vice President, Government and Community Affairs, Holland America
- 8:15 **Cook Inlet: 2008 & Beyond**
Mitch Little, Alaska Asset Team Leader, Marathon Oil Company
- 8:45 **North Slope Exploration & Development Projects: A Look Ahead**
Doug Suttles, President, BP (Exploration) Alaska, Inc.
Jim Bowles, President, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Doug Wilson, Alaska Exploration Manager, Anadarko Petroleum
- 9:30 **Gourmet Break – Sponsored by ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.**
- 10:00 **North Slope Exploration & Development Projects: A Look Ahead**
Moderator: Marilyn Crockett, RDC Executive Committee member, Executive Director,
Alaska Oil and Gas Association
Ken Sheffield, President, Pioneer Natural Resources Alaska
Rick Fox, Alaska Assets Manager, Shell E&P, Inc.
John Zager, Manager, Alaska Assets, Chevron
- 10:45 **The Current News From Washington On Alaska Gas**
Drue Pearce, Federal Coordinator, Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects
-
- Noon Keynote Luncheon:
1977-2007: How Oil Has Transformed Alaska's Economy
Moderator: John Shively, President, RDC
Scott Goldsmith, Economist, Institute for Social & Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage
Neal Fried, Economist, State of Alaska Department of Labor
Mike Burns, Executive Director, Permanent Fund Corporation
-
- 2:00 p.m. **The Threat To Our Prosperity: Alaska's Looming Energy Crisis**
Moderator: Rick Rogers, Senior Vice President, RDC, Vice President, Land and Resources,
Chugach Native Corporation
Mayor Mark Begich, Municipality of Anchorage
- 2:30 **The Arctic Initiative**
Lars M. Hvalbye, Senior Advisor, Technology, StatoilHydro
- 3:00 **Gourmet Break – Sponsored by CH2M Hill**
- 3:30 **Industry-Community Partnerships, Challenges & The Path Forward**
Moderator: Teresa Imm, RDC Executive Committee member, Director of Resource Development,
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
Mayor Edward Itta, North Slope Borough
Mayor John Williams, Kenai Peninsula Borough
- 4:30 **VIP Reception** at Josephine's (Top floor Sheraton)
Hosted by **Government of Canada**, open to all conference attendees



Thursday _____

7:00 a.m. Eye Opener Reception In Exhibit Area

8:00 **The Endangered Species Act:
Current Listings, Candidate Species & Implications For Alaska's Economy**
Moderator: Wendy Lindskoog, Vice President, RDC, Assistant Vice President, Corporate Affairs,
Alaska Railroad Corporation
Ken Taylor, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Jeff Leppo, Seattle Office Managing Partner, Stoel Rives LLC
Caryn Rea, Senior Biologist, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.

9:30 **Gourmet Break – Sponsored by Stoel Rives LLC**

10:00 **Are The Clean Water, Clean Air, & Endangered Species Acts Being Used To Advance
An Anti-Development Agenda?**
Moderator: Paula Easley, RDC Board member, Public Policy Consultant
Marilyn Crockett, Executive Director, Alaska Oil & Gas Association
Bob Stiles, President, DRven Corporation, Development Manager, Chuitna Coal Project
Stephanie Madsen, Executive Director, At-Sea Processors Association

11:15 Networking Break

Noon Keynote Luncheon:
Moderator: John Shively, President, RDC
Expanding Alaska's Energy Horizons: Major Issues & Current Efforts
Henri Bisson, Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Alaska Issues, U.S. Department of the Interior

1:00 **Grand Raffle Drawing** – Moderated by
Champagne and Sparkling Cider Toast – Sponsored by **Harbor Enterprises/Petro Marine Services**

Corporate Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors

BP Exploration Alaska, Inc.
ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc.
ExxonMobil
Northrim Bank
TeckCominco/NANA Development Corporation

VIP Reception Host

Government of Canada

Cosponsors

AICLLC
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
ASRC Energy Services/Petro Star Inc.
Barrick Gold Corporation
Brooks Range Petroleum Corporation
CH2M Hill
Enbridge Inc.
Eni Petroleum
MWH Americas, Inc.
Pebble Limited Partnership
Petrotechnical Resources of Alaska
Pioneer Natural Resources Alaska Inc.
Shell Exploration & Production
TransCanada
Wells Fargo Bank Alaska
XTO Energy

Centerpiece Sponsor

Peak Oilfield Service Company

General Sponsors

Alaska Airlines
Alaska Business Monthly
Alaska Frontier Constructors
Alaska Journal of Commerce
Alaska National Insurance Co.
Bradley Reid + Associates
Carlile Transportation Systems
Chevron
COEUR Alaska – Kensington Mine
Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
District Council of Laborers
Dowland Bach Corporation
Doyon Family of Companies
Fairweather
Hawk Consultants LLC

Heller, Ehrmann, White & McAuliffe
Kennecott Greens Creek Mine
Koniag, Inc.
Lynden
Network Business Systems
North Slope Borough
Perkins Coie LLP
Petroleum News
Princess Tours
Shaw Alaska
Tesoro Alaska Company
Udelhoven Oilfield System Services
Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.
Westward Seafoods

Gourmet Break Sponsors

ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
CH2M Hill
Stoel Rives LLC

Champagne & Sparkling Cider Toast Sponsor

Harbor Enterprises/
Petro Marine Services

Underwriters

Air Logistics of Alaska
Alaska Communications Systems
Alaska Industrial Development & Export Authority
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Alaska Railroad Corporation
Aleut Corporation
American Marine Services Group
Anadarko Petroleum
Anchorage Economic Development Corporation
Anchorage Sand & Gravel
ARCADIS-US, Inc.
Beacon Occupational Health & Safety Services, Inc.
Bering Straits Native Corporation
BHP Billiton
Bristol Bay Native Corporation
Calista Corporation
Chugach Alaska Corporation
Chugach Electric Association
City of Unalaska
Colville, Inc./Brooks Range Supply
Conam Construction Company

Crowley
Cruz Construction
Delta Leasing LLC
DRven Corporation
ENSR Corporation
ENSTAR Natural Gas Company
Era Helicopters LLC
Escopeta Oil Company
Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc.
FEX
First National Bank Alaska
Flint Hills Resources
Flowline Alaska
Foss Maritime
GCI
Golder Associates Inc.
H.C. Price Company
Hartig Rhodes Hoge & Lekisch
HDR Alaska, Inc.
Holland America Line
Hotel Captain Cook
IBEW Local 1547
Key Bank
Koncor Forest Products
LGL Resource Associates, Inc.
Marathon Oil Company
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
Mikunda Cottrell & Company
Minerals Management Service
Nabors Alaska Drilling
NC Machinery
Petro-Canada
PGS Onshore, Inc.
Port of Tacoma
ProComm Alaska, LLC
Renaissance Alaska, LLC
Samson Tug & Barge
Sealaska Corporation
Sheraton Anchorage Hotel
Sourdough Express
Southeast Stevedoring
StatoilHydro
STEELFAB
Teamsters Local 959
TeckPogo
Totem Ocean Trailer Express
UIC Oilfield Services
Ultrastar Exploration LLC
UNIVAR USA
Weaver Brothers, Inc.
Weston Solutions, Inc.



2007 RDC RAFFLE PRIZE LIST

Drawing will be held Thursday, November 15, 2007

At the conclusion of RDC's Annual Conference:

Alaska Resources 2008

Sheraton Anchorage Hotel

Holland America Seven-Day Cruise for Two
Donated by Holland America Line

Two Round Trip Tickets
Donated by Alaska Airlines

40-lb. Case of Frozen Alaska Red King Crab
Donated by Westward Seafoods, Inc.

Two Round Trip Tickets
Donated by PenAir

35-lb. Case of Sockeye Salmon Filets
Donated by LGL Alaska Research Associates

Two Round Trip Tickets Anchorage – Denali
Donated by the Alaska Railroad Corporation

Helicopter Ride for Four People
Donated by Evergreen Helicopters of Alaska, Inc.

Laptop Computer
Donated By Network Business Systems

Two Nights Accommodation at the Laughing Raven B&B
Donated by Mo Hillstrand and Jeff Foley

eTrex Vista Hiking Companion GPS
Donated by The Surveyors Exchange Co.

Mendenhall Glacier Helicopter Tour and Guided Walk for Two
Donated by TEMSCO Helicopters

Chainsaw
Donated by Koncor Forest Products

Rod and Reel
Donated by Weston Solutions, Inc.

\$100 Gift Certificate to Allure Day Spa
Donated by Lynden

\$100 Nordstrom Gift Certificate
Donated by Alaska Executive Search

Sheraton Hotel Package
Donated by Sheraton Anchorage Hotel

Mounted Aerial Photograph of Mt. Hunter
Donated by AERO-METRIC Anchorage

Sunday Brunch for Four
Donated by Millennium Alaskan Hotel

Framed Shane Lamb Print
Donated by Marathon Oil Company

Forget-Me-Not Print
Donated by Alaska USA Federal Credit Union

Maps of Alaska
Donated by Mapmakers Alaska

Logo Items and Leatherman Tool
Donated by Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.

Logo Jacket and Portfolio
Donated by Alaska Housing Finance Corp.

Case of Golf Balls
Donated by Perkins Coie LLP

Fleece Vest and Polo Shirt
Donated by Enbridge Inc.

Two Logo Jackets
Donated by Mikunda Cottrell & Co., Inc.

TOTE Dry Bag
Donated by Totem Ocean Trailer Express

Two Waterproof Backpacks
Donated by ASRC Energy Services

Wall Clock and Coffee Mugs
Donated by the City of Wasilla

AMA Convention
Short Courses

Short courses are open to all (need not be an AMA member and need not be registered for the convention).

Short Course #1:

Application of Heavy Mineral Methods in Stream Sediment and Till to Exploration

Instructor: *Dr. Harvey Thorleifson, Director*, Minnesota Geological Survey

Time: 8:30am – 5:00pm, Mon - Tues Nov 5 - 6.

Cost: \$300, \$350 after Oct 15. Fee includes lunch.

Enrollment is limited to 50 participants. **Optional fee payable at class** for University of Alaska Continuing Education Credits. **Location:** Sheraton Hotel

The Alaska Miners Association is pleased to offer a course that will review basic principles and recent developments in heavy-mineral-based mineral exploration methods, including gold grains, base metal indicators, and kimberlite indicator minerals. It will include presentations and hands-on exercises dealing with survey design, sampling and sample processing methods, geochemical analyses, mineral chemistry, quality assurance/quality control, as well as examples from precious metal, base metal, and diamond exploration.

Short Course #2:

Current Practice in Acid Rock Drainage Prediction

Instructors: *Stephen Day, P.Geo., Principal Geochemist*, – SRK Consulting Ltd.

Time: 8:30am – 5:00pm, Tues, Nov 6.

Cost: \$175, \$225 after Oct 15. Fee includes lunch.

Enrollment is limited to 50 participants. **Optional fee payable at class** for University of Alaska Continuing Education Credits.

Location: Sheraton Hotel

Acid rock drainage (ARD) and the associated process of metal leaching (ML) can be important issues at any construction project where rock is exposed to flowing water. This seminar will provide an introduction to the methods available to predict the reactivity of rock and the chemistry of drainage in contact with rock, and the use of the results to identify technologies to address ML/ARD. The seminar will appeal primarily to engineers and geoscientists working in the mining, transportation and utility industries.

Short Course #3:

Properly Filing Mining License Tax and State Royalty

Instructor: *Johanna Bales*, Alaska Department of Revenue, and *Rick Fredericksen*, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Time: 2-hour sessions at 2:00pm on Tue, Wed, or Thu, Nov 5, 7, and 8, with 24 participants per session.

Cost: \$50. **Location:** Third Floor, Sheraton Hotel.

This short course provides training on accurately complying with the requirements of the Mining License Tax and Royalty. The primary focus will be on the small operators and accountants to ensure the filings are correct. Participants may arrange for private meetings on the afternoon following each course or by later appointment.

Short Course #4:

MSHA Surface Refresher

Time: 8:00am – 5:00pm, Sat Nov 10.

Cost: Free – Pre-registration required. Lunch not included.

TRADE SHOW

Attend the Trade Show during the convention. Many mineral industry suppliers will participate.

Open to the public

Wednesday, November 7, 8:00am – 6:30pm

Thursday, November 8, 8:00am – 5:00pm

Friday, November 9, 8:00am – 2:00pm

ROCK & MINERAL SHOW

Rock and mineral displays. Trade, buy and sell.

Open to the public

Friday, November 9, 5:00pm – 9:00pm

Saturday & Sunday, Nov 10 & 11, 10:00am – 5:00pm

Yukon and Kuskokwim Rooms

Technical Sessions

Wednesday Morning, November 7

Agency Geologic Investigations

Updates by USGS, BLM, and DGGs scientists on Alaska work programs in progress or completed during the past year.

Wednesday Afternoon, November 7

Exploration Project Highlights

An overview of various early stage exploration projects from around the State of Alaska. The session will include project talks on Southeast, Southcentral, Interior, Southwest, Western and Northern Alaska.

Thursday Morning, November 8

AMA Session: Issues Affecting Alaska Miners

This session will update miners on current industry issues.

Thursday Afternoon, November 8

Alaska Exploration Projects

Presentations will give highlights of 2007 exploration activities in Alaska and updates on specific properties.

Friday Morning, November 9

A Social License to Operate

Overviews of social responsibilities for exploration and mining operations in Alaska will be presented.

Friday Afternoon, November 9


Development and Mine Operations

Current mine development projects will be discussed as well as updates on selected mining operations.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship opportunities are available at a variety of levels for the convention, short courses, coffee breaks, student poster sessions, and other events. Sponsors receive personal recognition at the event and they receive promotion through the convention website and convention materials. For more information contact Sharon Cox at the Alaska Miners Association.

AMA Convention
Registration Form

| | |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION Convention and Trade Show November 5 – November 11, 2007</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Company _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Telephone _____ Fax _____</p> <p>Email _____ Date _____</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Individual Member.....\$95.00 _____</p> <p>Professional Member..... \$200.00 _____</p> <p>Operator\$250.00 _____</p> <p>Student\$10.00 _____</p> <p>Corporate.....Call AMA office for information _____</p> <p>CONVENTION REGISTRATION</p> <p>Member Registration\$150.00 _____</p> <p>Non-Member Registration\$200.00 _____</p> <p>Student Registration.....\$20.00 _____</p> <p><i>Surcharge after Oct.15, 2007</i>.....\$25.00 _____</p> <p>SPECIAL EVENTS</p> <p>Wednesday, November 7</p> <p>Luncheon\$30.00 _____</p> <p>Thursday, November 8</p> <p>Mining District Breakfast.....\$25.00 _____</p> <p>Luncheon.....\$30.00 _____</p> <p>Friday, November 9</p> <p>UAF School of Mines Breakfast \$25.00 _____</p> <p>Luncheon \$30.00 _____</p> <p>Banquet \$55.00 _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total A _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Deadline for Pre-Registration is October 15, 2007</p> | <p>Short Course #1 (Nov. 5 - Nov. 6 in the Sheraton Hotel) "Heavy Mineral Indicators"</p> <p>Pre-Registration\$300 _____</p> <p>After Oct 15\$350 _____</p> <p>Student Rate \$50 _____</p> <p>(Registration Fee Includes Lunch)</p> <p>I want Continuing Education Credits (fee paid at class) yes ___ no ___</p> <p>Short Course #2 (Nov. 6 in the Sheraton Hotel) "Acid Rock Drainage"</p> <p>Pre-Registration\$175 _____</p> <p>After Oct 15\$225 _____</p> <p>Student Rate \$50 _____</p> <p>(Registration Fee Includes Lunch)</p> <p>I want Continuing Education Credits (fee paid at class) yes ___ no ___</p> <p>Short Course #3 (in the Sheraton Hotel) "Properly Filing Mining License Tax and State Royalty"</p> <p>First Come First Served.....\$50 _____</p> <p>Tues Nov. 6, 2:00-4:00pm ___ or</p> <p>Wed Nov. 7, 2:00-4:00pm ___ or</p> <p>Thur Nov. 8, 2:00-4:00pm _____</p> <p>Short Course #4 (Nov. 10 in the Sheraton Hotel) "MSHA Surface Refresher"</p> <p>Pre-Registration No charge _____</p> <p>(Pre-registration is required. Lunch is not included)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total B _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total A _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Grand Total _____</p> <p>Payment Method:</p> <p>Check # _____ Cash _____ M.O.# _____ P.O. # _____</p> <p>To pay by credit card :</p> <p>1. Circle one: VISA MASTERCARD</p> <p>2. Account Number: _____</p> <p>3. Expiration Date: _____ Billing Zip: _____</p> <p>4. Name on card (please print): _____</p> <p>5. Signature: _____</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Alaska Miners Association 3305 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 105 Anchorage, Alaska 99503 Ph: (907) 563-9229 Fax: (907) 563-9225 Email: ama@alaskaminers.org Website: www.alaskaminers.org</p> |
|---|--|

Save Money with Pre-Registration!

Register early and pay a reduced registration fee. To take advantage of this reduced fee you must return the following registration form to the AMA office on or before October 15, 2007. Members of the AMA qualify for an even greater reduction for convention registration. Non-members may take advantage of this lower rate by joining the AMA when they register.

Travel Information

Hotel

Book by October 15 and the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel will provide rooms at the special rate of \$99 (single or double) for those attending the AMA convention. Reserve your room early. **You must contact the Sheraton Hotel directly for room reservations.** When calling, state that you are attending the Alaska Miners Convention so you can receive these special rates.

Sheraton Hotel
401 East 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone: (907) 276-8700
Within Alaska, call toll free: (800) 478-8700

Or Register on line at
<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/akminers07>

Travel Arrangements

ITC Travel has obtained special fares from Alaska Airlines up to 10% off excursion fares excluding all other promo's for convention attendees. These rates are effective from Nov. 4th through Nov. 14th. To take advantage of these special rates, you must purchase your tickets through ITC Travel by calling 907-561-7722. Mention you are a conference attendee for the Alaska Miners Association Convention. CMR 9711 e-code. "International travelers" must have picture ID with Birth Certificate, Citizen Certificate, or current Passport.

ITC Travel
4101 Arctic Blvd., Ste. 107
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone: (907) 561-7722 or call toll free (877) 561-7975
Fax: (907) 561-3600
www.itcalaska.com Email: info@itcalaska.com

George Schmidt Memorial Raffle and Silent Auction In Support of AMEREF

Drawing and Silent Auction will be held Friday, Nov 9, 2007 at the AMA Annual Convention and Trade Show, Miner's Banquet, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel. Some of the following donations will be used in the Silent Auction, others as raffle prizes.
The Holland America 7-day Cruise for 2 will be the raffle grand prize.

7-day Cruise for 2 on Holland America Line
Donated by Holland America Line

Commemorative Bowl
Donated by Alaskans for Don Young

\$100 Gift Card
Donated by Lynden Inc.

Ulu with Antler Handle/Stand
Donated by Coeur Alaska

500 Pounds Freight on NAC
Donated by Northern Air Cargo

Handmade Reversible Aprons
Donated by Barbara Hayden

Romance Package
Donated by Sheraton Anchorage Hotel

Alaska Aces Hockey Ticket Vouchers
Donated by Alaska Aces

ConocoPhillips Gift Basket
Donated by ConocoPhillips

Chocolate Gift Pack
Donated by Alaska Wild Berry Products

Walrus Ivory Native Mask
Donated by Calista Corporation

\$100 Alaska Laser Wash Gift Certificate
Donated by Alaska Laser Wash, Inc.

Garmin GPS MAP 76CSx
Donated by The Surveyors Exchange

TOTE Duffel Bags and Wine Glass Sets
Donated by Totem Ocean Trailer Express

Five \$100 Gift Cards
Donated by Anchorage Sand & Gravel

Birch Bark Basket
Donated by NANA Development Corporation

Four Adult Passes to H2Oasis
Donated by Alaska Waterpark

iPod Shuffle
Donated by GeoLogic Solutions

\$25 Gift Card to Eddie Bauer
Anonymous Donation

Gardening Set
Donated by Dana Novak

Four \$50 Tesoro Fuel Cards
Donated by Tesoro Alaska Company

Glacier Adventure Cruise
Donated by Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

\$50 Gift Card to Allure
Donated by Allure Day Spa & Hair Design

Gold Nugget
Donated by Silverado Gold Mines Inc.

Glass Cheese Plate, Fused Glass Icicle,
Artist Cards
Donated by Robin Murphy

\$50 Gift Card to Glacier Brewhouse
Donated by Glacier Brewhouse

\$50 Gift Card to ORSO
Donated by ORSO

Assorted Logo Apparel
Donated by The Pebble Limited Partnership

\$100 Certificate to Mayflower Catering
Donated by Chiulista Services

Mendenhall Glacier Flightseeing &
Guided Walk Heli Tour for 2 - Juneau
Donated by TEMSCO Helicopters, Inc.

Stone Eagle Head, Fir Wood Stump Basket,
Jade Seal Hunter, Bracelet
Donated by Alaska Horn & Antler

Roadside Safety Bag
Donated by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company



121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 250
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 276-0700

www.akrdc.org

Membership Application

Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.
121 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 250
Anchorage, AK 99503-2035
Phone: (907) 276-0700 Fax: (907) 276-3887

Name: _____

Title: _____

Company: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Numbers Wk: _____ Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

Website Address: _____

Referred by: _____ Date: _____

Annual Membership Categories

| | <u>Corporate</u> | <u>Individual</u> |
|----------|------------------|-------------------|
| PLATINUM | \$3000 or more | \$500 or more |
| GOLD | \$1500 | \$300 |
| SILVER | \$ 750 | \$150 |
| BASIC | \$ 500 | \$ 75 |

Please circle 1 or 2 topics of most interest:

Oil & Gas • Timber • Mining • Fisheries • Transportation • Agriculture
Energy • Labor • H2O • Tourism • Land (Wetlands)

Method of payment: Enclosed is a check for: \$ _____ or

MC/VISA/AMEX# _____ Exp. Date: _____

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. is classified a non-profit trade association under IRS Code 501(c)(6). Membership dues and other financial support may be tax deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense, however, 15.9% of the dues are non-deductible. Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.