

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, March 19, 2009

- 1) Call to order – Wendy Lindscoog, Sr. Vice President
- 2) Self Introductions
- 3) Headtable Introductions
- 4) Staff Report: Jason Brune, Executive Director
- 5) Program and Keynote Speaker:

**Meeting The Challenges of Getting Alaska
Natural Gas to Market**

Drue Pearce, Federal Coordinator, Office of the
Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas
Transportation Projects

Next Meeting: April 2nd: David Benton, Executive Director, Marine Conservation Alliance, The Seafood Industry in Alaska's Economy

Please add my name to RDC's mailing list

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RDC Action Alert: Offshore energy hearing, Tuesday, April 14th in Anchorage

Overview:

U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar will host a public hearing in Anchorage on Tuesday, April 14 to present findings on Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy resources and take comments from the public, state and local community officials, advocacy groups, and energy producers on offshore development. The meeting will be held at the Dena'ina Convention Center beginning at 9 a.m.

The Obama administration intends to develop a new offshore energy plan over the next six months. Secretary Salazar is seeking input on where and how his department should move forward in developing the traditional and renewable energy resources of the OCS. Unlike earlier hearings, this meeting will not focus on specific lease sales. It will gauge public opinion on the development of an offshore energy plan that will likely emphasize renewable energy, with some new oil and gas development in certain areas, but not necessarily in Alaska. It is vital the Secretary hear from Alaskans who support offshore energy development off the coast of Alaska.

Points to consider for your testimony:

- A comprehensive energy plan for the nation must include Alaska, which accounts for over 30 percent of the nation's technically recoverable oil and gas resources.
- OCS development has an outstanding safety and environmental record spanning decades in Cook Inlet, the Gulf of Mexico, the North Sea and elsewhere.
- Oil and gas production can occur in a responsible manner under a strong regulatory system, seasonal operating restrictions as needed, and mitigation measures to avoid conflicts with other resource and subsistence users.
- The Alaska OCS is an important future source of U.S. energy supply with an estimated 27 billion barrels of oil and 132 trillion cubic feet of natural gas potentially in place. By comparison, total production from the North Slope since 1977 has been approximately 15.5 billion barrels.
- The Chukchi Sea is considered the nation's most prolific, unexplored offshore basin in North America.
- Access to Alaska's OCS resources may be a key element in the economic feasibility of the proposed natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to the Lower 48. Additional gas reserves beyond those already discovered are needed to make the project economic.
- Access to the OCS will help reverse the decline in North Slope oil production and increase throughput in the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.
- Development of both conventional and renewable energy resources offshore Alaska are vital to the economy.
- OCS production in Alaska would provide many benefits, including hundreds of new jobs in rural and urban areas, additional tax income to the state and local governments, new local sources of fuel and energy, and improved search and rescue operations.
- OCS revenue sharing is an effective means to address impacts to local communities. It should be enacted in Alaska.
- Given demand for energy will rise as the economy recovers, America must continue to pursue new oil and gas development, even as the nation slowly transitions to the new energy sources of the future.
- Increased emphasis on renewable energy should not preclude or require less oil and gas development. America needs more of both to reduce its reliance on foreign oil.
- For every barrel of oil America refuses to develop domestically, it will have little choice but to import an equal amount from overseas – where weaker environmental regulations often apply.

Mark your calendar and plan to present brief comments on Tuesday, April 14th



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

RDC Action Alert: Alaska Outer Continental Shelf Lease Sales

[Carl Portman's January 15, 2009 Testimony](#)

Comment deadline extended to March 30, 2009

Overview:

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) is seeking comments on its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales 209, 212, 217, and 221. Alaska's offshore waters hold great potential for meeting the nation's energy needs. In fact, the Chukchi Sea is considered the nation's most prolific, unexplored offshore basin in North America. MMS has estimated that Alaska's OCS contains 27 billion barrels of oil and 132 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. By comparison, total production from the North Slope since 1977 has been 15.5 billion barrels. Access to Alaska's OCS resources will be a key element in the economic feasibility of the proposed natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to the Lower 48. Alaska OCS lease sales to date have generated over \$3 billion in bonus payments to the U.S. Treasury.

For additional information, refer to MMS's hearing notice located at:

http://www.mms.gov/alaska/cproject/ArcticMultiSale_209/2008_1219_NOA.pdf

Action Requested:

RDC encourages its members to participate in the process by submitting comments. It is vital that MMS and the Obama administration hear from Alaskans that these lease sales are critical to Alaska and for the nation's long-term energy security. MMS will count verbal and written comments for and against the proposed lease sales to assist the administration in deciding whether to hold the sales, determining lease terms/stipulations, and recommending whether portions of the sale area should be deferred or withdrawn.

The opposition will likely turn out in force to oppose the sales. They can be expected to generate heavy write-in and email campaigns. Their objective is to show the new administration and incoming Department of the Interior Secretary Salazar that "Alaskans and people throughout the nation do not support OCS drilling." Therefore, it is critical that those supporting the lease sales express their opinion.

Send written comments to:

*Alaska OCS Region, Minerals Management Service
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5820*

Online: <https://ocsconnect.mms.gov/pcs-public/>

Click on "Quick Search" and type in: Sales 209, 212, 217, and 221.

Click on Project ID to see DEIS and to submit comments.

Comment deadline extended to March 30, 2009

Points to consider for your comments:

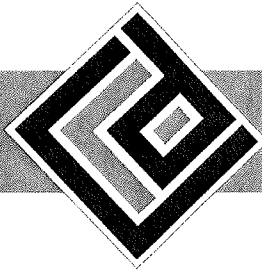
- The Alaska OCS is an important future source of U.S. energy supply with an estimated 27 billion barrels of oil and 132 trillion cubic feet of natural gas potentially in place. The Chukchi Sea is considered the most prospective unexplored offshore basin in the

country.

- Responsible development of Alaska's offshore energy resources would help meet future U.S. energy demand and offset declining production from mature basins in the U.S. and Canada. Moreover, Alaska OCS development would geographically diversify offshore domestic supplies beyond the hurricane-prone Gulf of Mexico.
- Any energy plan for the nation must include Alaska, which accounts for over 30 percent of the nation's technically recoverable resources.
- MMS should maintain regular lease sales in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, as well as portions of the North Aleutian Basin. Oil and gas production can move forward in these areas in an environmentally-sensitive and responsible manner through a strong regulatory regime, state-of-the-art oil spill response, seasonal operating restrictions as needed, and mitigation measures to avoid conflicts with other resource users.
- Revenue sharing from the OCS with local communities should be enacted to help address local impacts.
- OCS production in Alaska would provide many benefits, including hundreds of new jobs in rural and urban areas, additional tax income to the state and local governments, new local sources of fuel and energy, and improved search and rescue operations.
- Subsistence whaling is vitally important, both economically and culturally to North Slope villages. Seasonal restrictions and/or deferrals of specific tracts in active whaling waters should be considered to avoid potential conflicts. Early consultation and conflict avoidance mechanisms should also be established.
- OCS development has an outstanding safety and environmental record spanning decades. Development has coexisted with other industries, including fishing, in the North Sea, the Gulf of Mexico and Cook Inlet.
- Given long lead times for development, which can exceed ten years, MMS must proceed expeditiously with key lease sales. Otherwise, production from new areas could be pushed back decades.
- Demand for energy is continuing to rise and reality will require continued development of America's oil and gas resources as the nation transitions to the new energy sources of the future. While renewable energy will make up a growing part of the U.S. energy portfolio, they will not significantly reduce our reliance on foreign sources of oil in the near or mid-term.
- The health of our economy and our national security will require utilization of both conventional and unconventional energy sources. No single approach is enough as we cannot drill our way to energy independence, nor can we conserve our way.
- Given the impact of high energy prices on Americans and their economy, the U.S. has a moral obligation to develop domestic energy sources, both onshore and offshore. These resources will buy us the time we need to develop alternative and renewable energy resources that will someday break our reliance on foreign oil.

Comment deadline extended to March 30, 2009

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



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March 18, 2009

John Goll, Regional Director
Alaska OCS Region
U.S. Minerals Management Service
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99503-5820

Dear Mr. Goll:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the proposed Chukchi and Beaufort seas lease sales (209, 212, 217 and 221).

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

RDC is confident oil and gas production from the Chukchi and Beaufort can move forward in an environmentally-sensitive and responsible manner through a strong regulatory regime, seasonal operating restrictions as needed, and mitigation measures to avoid conflicts with other resource users. OCS development has an outstanding safety and environmental record spanning decades. Development has coexisted with other industries, including fishing, in the North Sea, the Gulf of Mexico and Cook Inlet.

OCS production in Alaska would provide many benefits, including hundreds of new jobs in rural and urban areas, additional tax income to the state and local governments, new local sources of fuel and energy, and improved search and rescue operations.

Any energy plan for the nation should include Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), given its potential for immense recoverable oil and gas reserves. Responsible development of Alaska's offshore energy resources would help meet future U.S. energy demand and offset declining production from mature basins in the U.S. and Canada.

RDC urges the Minerals Management Service to maintain regular lease sales in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas, including but not limited to sales 209, 212, 217 and 221. Given the long lead times for development, which can exceed ten years, MMS must proceed with key lease sales. Otherwise, production from new areas could be pushed back decades.

Such delays could potentially jeopardize the proposed natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to the Lower 48. Access to the Alaska OCS may be a key element to the long-term economic feasibility of the pipeline. To become a reality, the pipeline requires additional gas reserves beyond what has already been discovered. The Chukchi Sea is considered to be the nation's most prolific, unexplored offshore basin in North America with potential reserves of 132 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

RDC recognizes that subsistence whaling is vitally important, both economically and culturally to North Slope villages. We believe seasonal restrictions and/or deferrals of specific tracts in active whaling waters should be considered to avoid potential conflicts, as opposed to outright cancellation or indefinite deferral of entire lease sales.

To help address local impacts, RDC also encourages the federal government to share revenues from OCS activity with local communities.

OCS production in Alaska would provide many benefits, including hundreds of new jobs in rural and urban areas, additional tax income to the state and local governments, new local sources of fuel and energy, and improved search and rescue operations.

As the Obama administration considers a new direction in energy policy, the Alaskan OCS must be a part of the solution. While the administration will be pressed by some interests to sharply curtail development of fossil fuels, the need for energy will continue to rise and demand will require continued development of America's oil and gas resources, even as the nation transitions to the new energy sources of the future. While renewable energy will make up a growing part of the U.S. energy portfolio, it will not significantly reduce our reliance on foreign sources of oil in the near or mid-term. In 20 years, conventional sources such as oil, gas and coal, are projected to account for at least 80 percent of the energy consumed in America – even with major strides forward in renewable and alternative energy production between now and then. As a result, the health of our economy and our national security will require utilization of both conventional and unconventional energy sources. No single approach is enough as we cannot drill our way to energy independence, nor can we conserve our way.

With the impact high-energy prices have on Americans and their economy, the U.S. has a moral obligation to develop domestic energy sources, both conventional and unconventional. These resources will buy us the time we need to develop the alternative and renewable energy resources that will someday break our reliance on foreign oil.

RDC applauds Interior Secretary Ken Salazar for seeking a new path forward for onshore and offshore renewable energy projects. We support inclusion of such projects in a comprehensive energy plan. However, in our view, a comprehensive energy plan should not only include "more" renewable and alternative energy, but also "more" conventional domestic energy production if America is to significantly reduce its reliance on foreign oil over the next 20

years. Increased emphasis on renewable and alternative energy should not preclude or require less oil and gas development. America needs *more* of both.

Given the nation will remain heavily reliant on oil and gas development for decades, America must harness the significant energy resources beneath its most promising onshore and offshore oil and gas basins. Otherwise, for every barrel of oil America refuses to develop domestically, it will have little choice but to import an equal amount from overseas – where weaker environmental regulations often apply.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed lease sales.

Sincerely,

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
For Alaska, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Portman', written in a cursive style.

Carl Portman
Deputy Director

2009 Resource Development Council Policy Positions

General Issues

Fiscal Policy & Planning

- Advocate development and implementation of a comprehensive, responsible, and long-range state fiscal plan.
- Support equitable and predictable tax and royalty policies.
- Support some use of the Permanent Fund earnings as part of a fiscal plan.
- Support development of a state strategic economic development plan.

Access

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

Regulation/Permitting

- Encourage the state to promote and defend the integrity of Alaska's permitting process.
- Advocate clear, timely, and streamlined state and federal permitting systems based on sound science, economic feasibility, and protection of property ownership rights.
- Support efforts to ensure Alaska's ballot initiative process is open and transparent.
- Adequately resource permitting agencies for personnel, research, and science.
- Support the State of Alaska's efforts to challenge unwarranted Endangered Species Act listings.
- Remove the "Point of Discharge" requirement implemented by the 2006 cruise ship head tax initiative to empower DEC to regulate cruise ship discharges to meet all water quality standards.
- Encourage the state to carefully consider the impacts of potential changes to the ACMP program on communities and industry while striving to eliminate the duplication of current state and federal requirements.

Infrastructure

- Encourage the state to develop a prioritized transportation strategy that supports resource exploration and development activities.

Education

- Support programs, including the Alaska Mineral and Energy Resource Education Fund (AMEREF) to educate students and the general public on responsible resource development activities in Alaska.
- Support growing the state's emphasis on workforce development.

Industry Specific Issues

Oil & Gas

- Oppose efforts, either legislatively or through the initiative process, to impose a gas reserves tax.
- Support legislation to encourage new exploration and development of Alaska's oil and gas deposits, as well as enhanced production from existing fields.
- Encourage public policy and fiscal decisions to improve the commercial viability of developing Alaska's North Slope and Interior natural gas resources.
- Support efforts to increase Cook Inlet oil and gas exploration and development to meet local demand and export markets.
- Advocate for a tax policy that enhances the State of Alaska's competitiveness for exploration and development investments.
- Encourage methods, such as investment tax credits, to improve the commercial viability of developing Alaska's heavy oil resources.
- Educate and advocate for opening the coastal plain of the ANWR 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 electricity 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 and research and development of non-conventional sources.

Mining

- Support equitable and predictable mining tax and royalty policies.
- Encourage new exploration and development of Alaska's mineral resources, as well as increased production from existing deposits.
- Advocate continuation and expansion of the airborne geophysical mapping program and the on-the-ground follow up work required to realize the full benefits of the program.

Fisheries

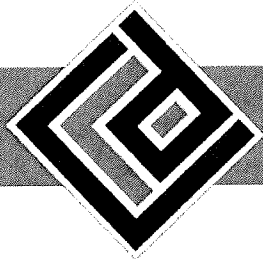
- Support fisheries policies that ensure access, markets and revenues for Alaska fishermen and coastal communities, and a healthy competitive environment for an Alaskan seafood processing industry.
- Support reduced fisheries waste and better utilization of Alaska fisheries resources, improved product value and development of new product forms.
- Support funding of fisheries and marine mammal research.

Forestry

- Advocate a reliable and economical long-term federal and state 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 additional aircraft landing sites and reduced restrictions on over-flights.
- Support amending the new cruise ship law to ensure compliance with federal tax restrictions, and avoid regulatory redundancy.



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March 12, 2009

Senator Hoffman and Senator Stedman
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SJR9-POMV Amendment to the Alaska Constitution

Dear Senator Hoffman and Senator Stedman:

On behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc., (RDC), I am writing in support of SJR9, amending the constitution of the State of Alaska to establish a percent of market value (POMV) approach as a means of distribution from the Permanent Fund in order to protect it for future generations of Alaskans.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

RDC's Board of Directors has supported the POMV approach for some time. Indeed, the Board of the Permanent Fund has also endorsed this concept since 2000 having passed several resolutions supporting similar amendments like SJR9 over the years. The POMV approach is currently used by many large endowments and public trusts and if enacted for the Permanent Fund, it will balance the goal of maximizing the availability of income from the fund with the long-term goal of protecting its value through inflation proofing.

Ultimately, POMV will simplify how the Permanent Fund is distributed, making it a lot more understandable to Alaskans. It will eliminate the confusing distinction between principal and earnings and provide for the option of an annual distribution through dividends. All the while, it will provide a means of conserving a portion of the state's revenues from mineral resources in order to benefit future generations of Alaskans.

Though RDC has historically supported using some of the distribution of the Permanent Fund to help fund state government, we support this current approach of not tying the Constitutional amendment and the POMV concept to how the money is used, be it for dividends, funding public services, or otherwise.

We encourage the committee to vote in favor of this amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska so that we can protect the Permanent Fund for future generations of Alaskans. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason W. Brune, Executive Director



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

March 12, 2009

Representative Wilson
House Transportation Committee
Alaska State Legislature, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB127-Subjecting the Alaska Railroad to the Executive Budget Act

Dear Representative Wilson:

On behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc., (RDC), I am writing in opposition of HB127-Subjecting the Alaska Railroad to the Executive Budget Act.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

Unfortunately, HB 127 seeks to make a fundamental change in the operation of the railroad, despite the fact that the current operational structure has served the state well for over 20 years and has produced substantial benefits for Alaska since it was acquired from the federal government in 1985. The Alaska Railroad is a well-run, self-sustaining transportation asset that has provided safe, economical, and efficient transportation services to residents, visitors, the military, and many of RDC's members. Since the railroad fell under state ownership, it has been profitable for 20 years and it has made hundreds of millions of dollars in capital improvements.

An in-depth assessment of the Alaska Railroad conducted before the transfer to state ownership determined that most of the financial problems encountered under federal ownership resulted from following federal budgeting procedures rather than allowing its management to develop operating and capital programs on the same basis as a privately-owned railroad. I think it is imperative we heed the advice of this assessment and not doom the railroad to a similar fate where we would only have ourselves, but more importantly our elected officials, to blame.

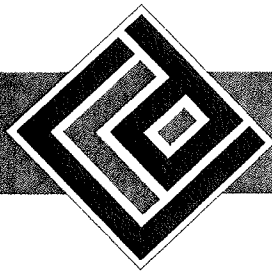
In concluding, the business model as it exists today works very well for the Alaska Railroad. Although the railroad is exempt from the Executive Budget Act, there is still significant state oversight over operation and management practices. Our members believe the railroad provides a valuable, efficient service. We are proud of the fact that it pays its own way and has a good relationship with its customers, nearly all of whom are members of RDC. In our view, it makes no sense to make sweeping changes when something isn't broken. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason W. Brune, Executive Director

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RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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March 12, 2009

Senator Olson, Chair
Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB127-An Act to Establish the Southeast Alaska State Forest

Dear Senator Olson:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is writing to support SB 127, the establishment of the Southeast Alaska State Forest.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

The bill would establish a new state forest in Southeast Alaska from state lands presently used for timber harvest. The Division of Forestry would be able to manage the state forest for a long-term supply of timber to local processors, and retain the land in state ownership for multiple use. The forest would be managed as part of the State Forest System and under the current Prince of Wales Island and Central Southeast area plans.

In Southeast Alaska, demand for state timber exceeds supply and local mills are dependent on a consistent supply to stay in business. The majority of the timber in Southeast Alaska is on federal land, but federal timber sales have declined sharply, oftentimes due to incessant litigation from anti-logging groups as well as the federal government consistently putting forward uneconomic timber sales. Subsequently, the demand for state timber has increased significantly.

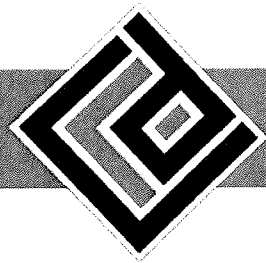
Much of the proposed forest was inherited from the U.S. Forest Service with young second-growth stands. Establishment of the Southeast Alaska State Forest will help provide a sustainable timber supply to local mills and accelerate the harvest of second-growth timber. Actively managed second-growth stands will provide more timber volume per acre on shorter rotations, and have less impact on wildlife. The shift to second-growth harvesting can be accelerated and timber volume increased on state land by thinning these stands. However, thinning is a long-term investment and is only justified if the land will continue to be available for forest management. A legislatively designated State Forest would ensure that land would remain available for long-term forest management. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on SB 127.

Sincerely,

Carl Portman, Deputy Director

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RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

March 17, 2009

Senator Paskvan
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB106-Disapproving all recommendations of State Officers Compensation Commission

Dear Senator Paskvan:

On behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc., (RDC), I am writing in opposition of SB106 which proposes to disapprove all recommendations of the independent State Officers Compensation Commission.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

Currently, Alaskan legislators are grossly underpaid. The fact that legislators are compensated at levels below their lowest staff member is appalling. We applaud the recommendations of the State Officers Compensation Commission, of which not one legislator was a member. We support the proposed increase in legislative salary from \$24,000 to \$50,400 along with the elimination of per diem when the Legislature is not in session. We believe the recommendations should have gone further, but this is a good start.

As you know, legislative compensation and per diem must be used to maintain residences in Juneau during the legislative session as well as home residences during the remainder of the year. This is nearly impossible given the current compensation level. To those of you that are currently serving, thank you for your sacrifice.

As part of our so called "citizen legislature," state representatives and state senators often need to maintain separate jobs outside of the Legislature to support their families. However, ethics laws passed recently have made it increasingly difficult for these legislators to legally, and ethically, find and maintain a job. Couple this with the number of special sessions that have been held the past few years, and it has become even more difficult for legislators to be reliable employees outside of the Legislature.

Unfortunately, as we continue to read in the press even last week, a number of former legislators are in jail and the common denominator is money, and not much of it. It should go without saying that paying someone more money will not suddenly make an unethical person ethical. But the current system Alaska has in place only allows for the independently wealthy, retirees, or people that are willing to live in their offices and eat ramen noodles.

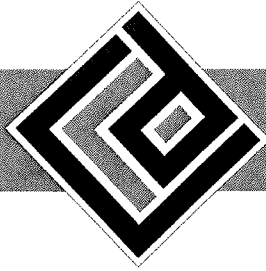
We live in a state that relies upon the responsible development of its natural resources as the foundation of its economy. Decisions made by legislators can and do have significant financial impacts on corporations and it should be imperative that we lure more of the best and brightest to Juneau to make the tough decisions needed to run our state. In conclusion, we enthusiastically support the recommendations of the commission and encourage you to reject SB106. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason W. Brune, Executive Director

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RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

March 13, 2009

Commissioner Leo von Scheben
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
STIP Comments
Division of Program Development
Box 112500
Juneau, AK 99811-2500

Dear Commissioner von Scheben:

I am writing on behalf of the Resource Development Council (RDC) in regard to Draft Amendment 18 to the 2006-2009 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). RDC supports a stimulus package that will provide jobs for Alaskans, boost local economies, repair and upgrade infrastructure and prepare our transportation network for gas pipeline construction.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

RDC believes a stimulus program should fund highway, transit and bridge projects across the state – in both urban and rural areas – to facilitate commerce. We agree with your department's efforts to accelerate projects targeting the Dalton, Alaska and Glenn Highways. In addition, RDC supports the approach by the administration to identify additional projects beyond what can be funded in the initial stimulus, should supplemental funds become available next summer.

In general, RDC is supportive of projects in the stimulus package that maintain and improve the National Highway System (NHS) in Alaska. As the backbone of our state's transportation system, it is vital that upgrades and repairs occur on the NHS for safety and economic reasons. Highways not only link our state's largest communities, they also accommodate tourists and serve virtually every industry and economic sector in Alaska. Yet the NHS in Alaska has not been adequately funded, resulting in a backlog of needed repairs and upgrades.

RDC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the STIP and looks forward to a robust stimulus package that will benefit Alaska communities, create new jobs, boost the economy and prepare the state for the eventual construction of the gas pipeline.

Sincerely,

Carl Portman
Deputy Director

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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

(907) 276-0700 resources@akrdc.org www.akrdc.org

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Referred by: _____ Date: _____

Annual Membership Categories		
	<u>Corporate</u>	<u>Individual</u>
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GOLD	\$1500	\$300
SILVER	\$750	\$150
BASIC	\$500	\$75

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

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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.