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## BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, February 5, 2015

1. Call to order – Ralph Samuels, President
2. Head Table Introductions
3. Staff Report – Rick Rogers, Executive Director
4. Program and Keynote Speaker:

### Wood Bison Release

Mike Miller, Executive Director,  
 Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center

#### Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 19: Brad Barnds, WesPac Midstream LLC

*Please add my name to RDC's contact list:*

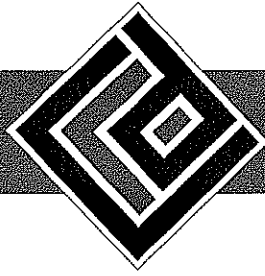
Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Rock Hengen

Steve Hites

Teresa Imm

Michael Jesperson

Mike Jungreis

Christine Klein

Thomas Krzewinski

John Lau

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January 28, 2015

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources

State Pipeline Coordinator's Office

411 West 4th Avenue, Suite 2

Anchorage, AK 99501

*Via email to: [spco.records@alaska.gov](mailto:spco.records@alaska.gov)*

Re: Donlin Gold's gas pipeline right-of-way lease request

To Whom It May Concern:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) is writing in support of approval of the Donlin Gold, LLC (Donlin) gas pipeline right-of-way lease request.

RDC is a statewide 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. RDC's purpose is 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 urges the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office to approve the right-of-way lease request for the gas pipeline for the proposed Donlin Gold project site. Donlin's application for a right-of-way lease for a natural gas pipeline from Cook Inlet to the proposed mine north of Crooked Creek will be for a 14-inch diameter, 315-mile line beginning at the Beluga gas field 30 miles west of Anchorage and ending at the proposed Donlin mine site.

The gas pipeline will provide a stable source of energy for the Donlin project, and has the potential to offer the same to local communities if they choose to tie into the gas pipeline at a later date. The pipeline will bring natural gas closer to rural Alaska, and potentially offer lower cost energy options to the region and job opportunities leading to reduced out-migration. The gas pipeline is also a superior energy source than other options, and offers a better delivery method.

Additionally, construction of the pipeline, potentially beginning in 2016 and lasting three to four years, will provide jobs to Alaskans.

Donlin proposed the gas pipeline as an alternative after residents along the Kuskokwim expressed concerns about barge traffic delivering diesel to the project. The pipeline will reduce expected barge traffic on the river.

Furthermore, the gas pipeline infrastructure may offer development opportunities for properties along the pipeline corridor, including Calista and Cook Inlet Region, Inc. lands.

Donlin has committed to burying much of the pipeline to reduce visual impact and environmental footprint, as well as reclaiming temporary infrastructure, such as roads and landing strips.

Further, the footprint of the proposed pipeline is narrow as to reduce environmental impact. Permanent infrastructure of the pipeline will be minimal, and winter construction will reduce impacts to other uses, including sport and subsistence hunting.

The proposed pipeline project includes designs to mitigate potential seismic disturbances at the Denali Fault crossing, and manual check valves about every 20 miles to protect against leaks. Local users, including hunters, have been kept informed of the proposed project and pipeline, and Donlin has avoided working on baseline studies through the hunting season to mitigate any disturbance from helicopter traffic.

The Iditarod Trail Committee, Iditarod Sled Dog Race, the Iron Dog Race, and other users have been kept informed of the proposed project and pipeline. The route has been optimized to reduce overlap with the historic Iditarod Trail, including rerouting through the Jones River valley – which ultimately will reduce 50 miles of overlap with the trail.

### **About the Donlin Gold project**

The Donlin Gold project is located in a region of Alaska that experiences some of the highest unemployment rates and has very few other opportunities. Through the exploration stages, Donlin has shown a strong commitment to local hire and for supporting communities and cultures in the region. A project like this truly is a rare opportunity to improve the local economy where few other opportunities exist.

New mining operations in the area, should they come to fruition, can be of great economic benefit to Alaska and local communities, as well as Alaska Native corporations and shareholders. The Donlin project could produce gold for over 25 years, while providing well paying jobs in a region where few other opportunities exist. Pipeline construction would provide 500 of the approximate 3,000 project jobs.

The project will benefit Alaska Native corporations statewide. Royalties paid to the Kuskokwim Corporation and Calista Corporation will in part be redistributed to other regional and village corporations. The Donlin project will likely provide responsible economic prospects for this region and for Alaska, while protecting the subsistence resources.

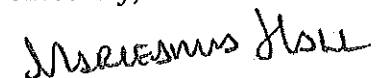
If developed, RDC believes it will be done in a way that creates opportunity for local employment and economic growth, while protecting the subsistence resources and culture of the region, and protecting the environment.

### **Conclusion**

In closing, RDC again urges the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office to approve the right-of-way lease request for the gas pipeline for the proposed Donlin Gold project site. RDC believes a gas pipeline to Western Alaska is much needed, and without stable energy, projects like Donlin in rural Alaska will likely not be feasible.

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

Sincerely,



Marleanna Hall  
Projects Coordinator

RDC Testimony – February 2, 2015  
NOAA Hearing on Proposes Critical Habitat Designation for Arctic Ringed Seal

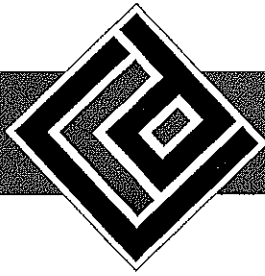
Good evening. My name is Kati Capozzi and I am a projects coordinator at the Resource Development Council, known as RDC. We appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony regarding the proposed Critical Habitat designation for the Arctic ringed seal.

RDC is a statewide organization 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. RDC's purpose is 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 on record of not supporting the original 'threatened' listing of the ringed seals due to their known abundant population. The ringed seal population continues to be strong, healthy, and faces no clear and present danger of suffering significant loss. The 100-year climate modeling practice based on what *could* happen to a species with regard to climate change has proven to be flawed and even recently resulted in the vacated listing of the bearded seal. This same flawed science was applied to the ringed seal and has resulted into an unprecedentedly vast proposed critical habitat designation.

Critical habitat is defined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service as: "a specific geographic area(s) that contains features *essential* for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management and protection." It is beyond unreasonable to designate what would be the U.S.'s largest critical habitat designation for a species that is experiencing a healthy and abundant population. Further, ringed seals and their habitats are well managed and protected by international agreements, conservation programs, and laws, including the Marine Mammal Protection Act. These and other measures are working, as is proven by their population. The listing of the animals would negatively impact an area of national significance because of its critical importance to domestic oil and gas production and development. In addition, our fisheries, community development, and access to potential mineral resources will likely be impacted as well. These activities are not the cause of any purported decline in species abundance, but will be significantly and disproportionately impacted by this sweeping designation.

In addition to this testimony, RDC will submit written comments by the March 31st deadline. Thank you for opportunity to testify today.



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February 4, 2015

The Honorable Representative Stutes  
Chairwoman, House Fisheries Committee  
State Capitol, Room 416  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: RDC Support for HJR7

Dear Representative Stutes,

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is writing in support of House Joint Resolution No. 7, "Opposing the proposed designation of an Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary."


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.

This wide-sweeping proposal would have designated sanctuary status for 554,000 square nautical miles, making it the largest marine protected area in U.S. waters and one of the largest in the world. This proposed designation was never discussed on a community level, and threatens the livelihoods of those Alaskans living and working throughout the Aleutian Islands, particularly those employed in the fishing industry.

Further, the waters near and around all of Alaska are effectively managed by a number of local, state, and federal organizations to include the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Alaska Board of Fish, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game. An additional layer of protection is unnecessary and places an unreasonable burden on the economy of the Aleutians.

RDC looks forward to passage of HJR7.

Thank you,

  
Kati Capozzi  
Projects Coordinator

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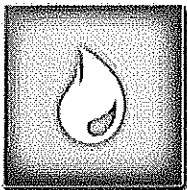
RDC Supporter,

The Obama Administration's recent efforts to lock up additional land in Alaska by proposing federal Wilderness designations including the 1002 area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) as well as imposing leasing limits offshore not only breaks federal law, but it flies in the face of the administration's recent pledge to work with Alaskans directly, especially when it comes to our livelihoods and economic future.

There have been many articles and opinion pieces following this news. We encourage our members to continue to speak up about this issue and let your voices be heard. Please consider signing the "[Return Alaska's Land Rights](#)" petition found on [whitehouse.gov](#). It takes just a few moments.

Additionally, join thousands of Alaskans that have liked the "[This Is Our Alaska](#)" Facebook page. The [#thisisOURAlaska](#) social media campaign is a way for Alaskan voices to be heard through posts, press releases, photos, etc.

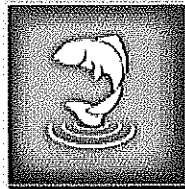
You may view RDC's formal response to the proposed designations [here](#).



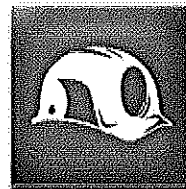
**Oil & Gas**



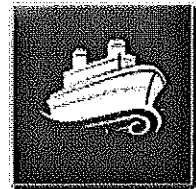
**Forestry**



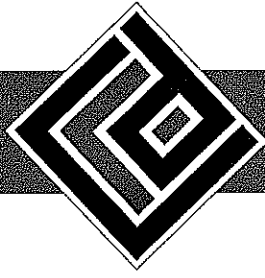
**Fisheries**



**Mining**



**Tourism**



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## RDC: Further ANWR lock up ignores law of the land

January 27, 2015 ANCHORAGE: The Resource Development Council (RDC) admonishes the Obama Administration's latest efforts to lock up additional land in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR.)

"This attempt at further Wilderness designations completely ignores the federal law and land compromise made in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980," stated Rick Rogers, Executive Director of RDC. "Regardless of one's opinion on drilling in the Arctic, this is an attack on our sovereignty as a state and our ability to manage our own lands."

The state of Alaska has a total of 58 million acres of land designated as federal Wilderness, which is over half of the nation's federally designated lands. If combined into one block, the federal Wilderness in Alaska would be the 11<sup>th</sup> largest state.

One of the most important parts of ANILCA are Section 101 (d) – the purposes section – and Section 1326 – commonly referred to as the "No More" clause. In Section 101, Congress said that ANILCA represents a proper balance between conservation and development and **no more** land would be withdrawn for conservation purposes by the federal government. Additionally, the land compromise *doubled* the size of the refuge to 19 million acres, but singled out and put aside 1.5 million acres of the coastal plain for its rich oil and gas potential. Eight million acres of ANWR were designated Wilderness. In closing off future development forever, the latest action amounts to a broken promise and flies in the face of the administration's recent pledge to consult and involve Alaska directly on Arctic policies, especially those impacting our economic future and livelihoods of all Alaskans.

Ironically, Congress did not authorize Statehood until it was convinced Alaska could support itself, as opposed to becoming a ward of the federal government. It was only after the discovery of oil in Alaska and the likelihood of large discoveries across the North Slope that Congress voted for statehood. A Wilderness designation over the coastal plain would deny Alaska the economic benefits that would come from the responsible oil and gas development of America's greatest onshore, conventional oil prospect, severely compromising our future economy.

Over the 45 years oil and gas development has occurred on the North Slope, Alaskans have proven that such activity – even in sensitive areas – can coexist with wildlife. Caribou populations have climbed from 3,000 animals in 1970 to over 60,000 today in and around producing fields. With advances in technology, future development in ANWR would impact less than one percent of the refuge. From an economic and environmental standpoint, this decision was purely political, unnecessary, unfair to Alaska, and just plain wrong.



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