



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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## BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, February 19, 2015

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

### ***LNG By Rail: Concepts and Logistics***

Dale Wade, Vice President,  
 Marketing and Customer Service,  
 Alaska Railroad Corporation

#### **Next Meeting:**

Thursday, March 5: Arctic Oil Spill Response, Bartley Lloyd, President and General Manager, Alaska Clean Seas

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

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

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



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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 6, 2015

Representative Benjamin Nageak co-chair  
Representative David Talerico co-chair  
House Resources Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 87, Timber Sales

Dear Co-chairs,

I am writing on behalf of the Resource Development Council of Alaska (RDC) to support passage of HB 87 "An Act relating to the sale of timber on state land; and providing for an effective date."

RDC is a statewide business association representing forestry, oil and gas, mining, tourism, and fishing industries. Our mission is to grow Alaska through responsible resource development. RDC supports policies aimed at ensuring a reliable and economical long-term State and federal timber supply.

In the decades since the State's timber sale authorizing statutes were last amended, the demand for wood fiber from State lands for energy purposes has increased significantly in response to escalating fuel oil costs and State capital investment through the renewable energy capital grant program. As a result wood fiber for biomass energy has grown into an important component of forest products from State timber sales.

What has also changed over the past decades is the dependence of our remaining Southeast Alaska mills on timber sales from State lands. In some circumstances negotiated State timber sales are essential in keeping what is left of our remaining manufacturing capacity operating.

RDC agrees with the administration, as articulated in Governor Walker's transmittal letter, that competitive timber sales are the preferred means of selling timber under most conditions. However some circumstances warrant the flexibility of offering negotiated sales at appraised fair market value in order to ensure a reliable supply of raw material to mills. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has a good track record of limiting its negotiated sales to those circumstances where it is clearly in the State's best interest, and the added flexibility afforded to the DNR Commissioner

by this surgical statutory revision will provide needed flexibility required by today's realities of timber supply and markets.

By giving the DNR Commissioner added flexibility in offering negotiated sales and clarifying that users of wood fiber are also eligible for negotiated sales, the State will have tools appropriate to conditions that frankly were not part of the timber supply landscape when State's timber sale statutes were last revised.

These amendments support recommendations of the 2012 Alaska Timber Jobs Task Force. The task force recommendations were developed with input from leaders in the timber industry and have been endorsed by the Alaska Board of Forestry.

RDC encourages the passage of HB 87 from committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Rogers", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rick Rogers  
Executive Director





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February 6, 2015

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair  
Senate Resources Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB 32, Timber Sales

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing on behalf of the Resource Development Council of Alaska (RDC) to support passage of SB 32 "An Act relating to the sale of timber on state land; and providing for an effective date."

RDC is a statewide business association representing forestry, oil and gas, mining, tourism, and fishing industries. Our mission is to grow Alaska through responsible resource development. RDC supports policies aimed at ensuring a reliable and economical long-term State and federal timber supply.

In the decades since the State's timber sale authorizing statutes were last amended, the demand for wood fiber from State lands for energy purposes has increased significantly in response to escalating fuel oil costs and State capital investment through the renewable energy capital grant program. As a result wood fiber for biomass energy has grown into an important component of forest products from State timber sales.

What has also changed over the past decades is the dependence of our remaining Southeast Alaska mills on timber sales from State lands. In some circumstances negotiated State timber sales are essential in keeping what is left of our remaining manufacturing capacity operating.

RDC agrees with the administration, as articulated in Governor Walker's transmittal letter, that competitive timber sales are the preferred means of selling timber under most conditions. However some circumstances warrant the flexibility of offering negotiated sales at appraised fair market value in order to ensure a reliable supply of raw material to mills. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has a good track record of limiting its negotiated sales to those circumstances where it is clearly in the State's best interest, and the added flexibility afforded to the DNR Commissioner



by this surgical statutory revision will provide needed flexibility required by today's realities of timber supply and markets.

By giving the DNR Commissioner added flexibility in offering negotiated sales and clarifying that users of wood fiber are also eligible for negotiated sales, the State will have tools appropriate to conditions that frankly were not part of the timber supply landscape when State's timber sale statutes were last revised.

These amendments support recommendations of the 2012 Alaska Timber Jobs Task Force. The task force recommendations were developed with input from leaders in the timber industry and have been endorsed by the Alaska Board of Forestry.

RDC encourages the passage of SB 32 from committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Rogers", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rick Rogers  
Executive Director



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

February 13, 2015

Mr. Jason Anderson  
Designated Federal Officer  
Tongass National Forest Advisory Committee  
U.S. Forest Service  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I am writing on behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc., (RDC) to express support for the harvest of old growth timber in the Tongass National Forest in a volume of at least 150MMBF per year. Such harvests are sustainable and would sufficiently maintain the current industry until a time that studies show that young growth will be more economically viable. Current young growth levels and locations are not yet robust enough to support an industry and have at least several decades before it can be economically harvested on a broad scale. In the interim, the Forest Service needs to allow economic old growth timber to be harvested in a volume of at least 150MMBF per year, which would be sufficient to meet the current market demand and is well within the current allowable sale quantity.

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.

Sustaining the current timber industry and the infrastructure that supports it, is critical to retaining services, communities and intellectual capital necessary to make a successful transition to a young growth industry. Southeast Alaska communities and local industries take pride in the region's forestry traditions and help to cultivate a true "Working Forest" ethic. Creating certainty in the land base on the Tongass for the sustenance of the timber industry is a critical need.

Congressional and Tongass initiated policies have reduced the available harvest land base to less than 5% and even the young growth land base has been reduced by almost 50% due to protective policies. RDC supports the stabilization and securing of a fully functional "working forest" to attract forest industry investment to the region and create long-term sustainable employment in local communities. RDC further supports increasing the acres of young growth within the Tongass National Forest's development land base to insure there is sufficient available timber to provide for an achievable transition at the appropriate time in the future.

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Resources from the Tongass National Forest have helped to build and fuel the Alaska economy, and Southeast in particular. The Tongass is unique in that major strides in forest health, productivity, management, and wood utilization have contributed to a vibrant and sustainable natural resource-based economy and a way of life in Southeast Alaska.

The transition to young growth in the Tongass should be based on scientific silviculture and economic rationale, not politically driven by preservationist interests at the expense of communities and livelihoods of those living in the region. Forest products processing and manufacturing used to be one of the largest contributors to the Southeast Alaska economy. All users, from hikers, to hunters, to ecologists, fishermen, foresters, residents and visitors all value and can co-exist within the healthy Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carl Portman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carl" and last name "Portman" clearly distinguishable.

Carl Portman  
Deputy Director

## **ACTION ALERT**

### **Attend Anchorage Public Hearing on New Five-Year OCS Plan**

#### **Overview**

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is holding public hearings across Alaska on its draft five-year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas lease sale plan for the period 2017-2022. The plan proposes one sale each in the Chukchi Sea, the Beaufort Sea, and Cook Inlet.

The proposed plan places 9.8 million acres of the Beaufort and Chukchi seas permanently off-limits to leasing, including the Hanna Shoal area of the Chukchi Sea. The offshore withdrawals came two days after the Obama administration announced it plans to ask Congress to designate nearly all of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as Wilderness, including the energy-rich coastal plain. These moves come at a time when oil production in Alaska is declining and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System is running at one-fourth capacity.

The draft proposed offshore leasing program includes 11 potential lease sales in the Lower 48, including 10 in the Gulf of Mexico and, for the first time, one in the mid-to-south Atlantic region.

#### **Action Requested**

A 60-day comment period is currently underway and it will end on March 30, 2015. RDC encourages its members to attend a public hearing in Anchorage on March 2<sup>nd</sup> to submit written comments. The Anchorage hearing will be held at the Marriott Downtown, 820 West 7th Avenue, 3:00-7:00 p.m.

*Please note the Anchorage hearing will feature the new "open house" format, where BOEM officials will have tables set up to speak with the public, and the only testimony that will be received will be through the computer stations that they have provided or delivered written comments from those attending the hearing.*

Comments may also be submitted online: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the search tab on the main page, enter BOEM-2014-0096. Locate the document, then click "Submit a Comment."

Or by Mail: Ms. Kelly Hammerle, Five-Year Program Manager, BOEM (HM-3120), 381 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 20170.

#### **Points to consider for your comments:**

Please make the talking points your own, and tell your story and why this is important to you.

### **Cook Inlet:**

- Urge the federal government not to restrict access to development, or to take any areas off the table.
- Despite its enormous resource potential, Alaska does not have the same number of lease sales as other areas of the country, only three in a five-year plan.
- Oil and gas development is the backbone of Alaska's economy.
- The discovery of oil in the Cook Inlet led to Alaska's statehood, and has remained as a vital resource for energy security for 80% of homes in Alaska.
- Oil and gas development and production has coexisted with other industries, including fishing and tourism, for more than 50 years in Cook Inlet.
- Access through lease sales is the first step to development and subsequent production.

### **Arctic:**

- Urge the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to keep all of the proposed leasing areas in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, and to deny additional restrictions on leasing in the final program
- The Arctic OCS holds enormous oil and gas resources, greater than any other undeveloped energy basin in the United States.
- The Department of the Interior estimates that the Arctic OCS holds approximately 27 billion barrels of oil and 132 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.
- It is estimated that the OCS off Alaska holds approximately one-third of the global OCS reserves.
- Development of the Arctic OCS would produce nearly 55,000 jobs nationwide, with greater than 35,000 direct and indirect jobs in Alaska alone.
- Alaskan jobs would generate over \$70 billion in total payroll, and a cumulative payroll amounting to an estimated \$145 billion nationwide.
- Arctic OCS development would provide money to the federal government as well. In 2008, Lease Sale 193 brought in greater than \$2.6 billion, and further OCS development could amount to nearly \$200 billion in federal, state, and local government revenue.
- Offshore development would help extend the longevity of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, which is a critical link to the nation's energy security.
- Over its 30-year span, TAPS has transported more than 17 billion barrels of oil from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez to tankers for west coast distribution.

- At one point, TAPS carried more than 2 million barrels per day, but over the last 20 years an annual decline in production from Alaska's North Slope has resulted in TAPS transporting just over 500,000 barrels of oil a day now.
- Arctic OCS development could feed into TAPS and maintain its viability, and employment for Alaskans, for years to come.
- Oil and gas development is the backbone of the economy in Alaska.
- The taxes and royalties associated with the oil and gas industry supply approximately 90% of the state's general fund, paying for essential services such as public education, public safety, and health care systems.
- Since 1971, 84 wells have been drilled in the Arctic OCS- all without incident.
- Planned drilling in the Chukchi Sea is in rather shallow water, similar to near-shore Gulf of Mexico, where safe drilling practices have led to a long history of safe operations.
- The Arctic OCS has multiple limitations on exploration, including seasonal drilling limitations and subsistence hunting closures.
- Industry that is currently operating in Arctic Alaska have taken great strides to coexist with the people of the Arctic and subsistence hunters.
- Newly instituted regulations and technologies will further ensure that development and environmental protection can co-exist in the Arctic.
- In the past decade, over 250 studies have been funded in the Arctic, with the majority focused on the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.
- As the sea ice stays open longer and other industries begin to explore new areas of the Arctic, Alaska's northern seas are left largely unattended with little infrastructure for response or rescue.
- Leasing of the Arctic OCS for exploration and development would bring much-needed infrastructure to a very rural on-shore area and would also provide additional response capabilities in an area where other countries and other industries are moving forward with exploration.
- For the benefit of Alaskans and the nation, BOEM is encouraged to continue to include Alaska leasing opportunities in the final plan.

**Deadline for public comments: Monday, March 30, 2015**

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

THE ALASKA

# Marine Gala

*Embrace Your Arctic Spirit*

FEBRUARY 21, 2015

DENA'INA CENTER • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

6:00 PM • COCKTAILS AND SILENT AUCTION

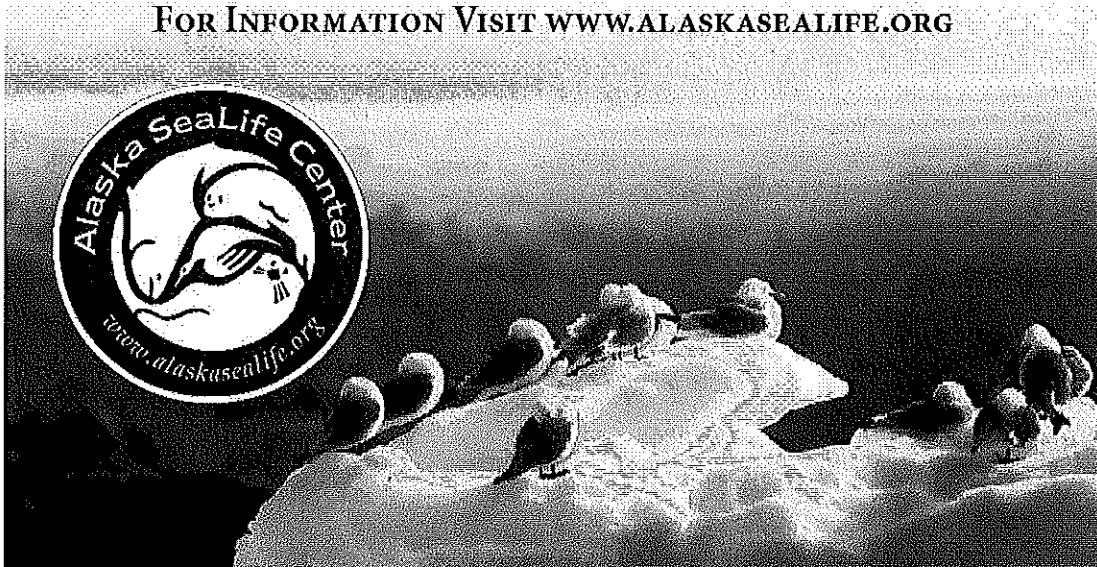
7:00 PM • DINNER, AWARDS AND LIVE AUCTION

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY FOLLOWING THE LIVE AUCTION

*A Night of Fun,  
Food, and Fundraising*

A BLACK TIE AFFAIR WITH AN OCEAN BLUE FLAIR

FOR INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.ALASKASEALIFE.ORG](http://WWW.ALASKASEALIFE.ORG)







# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

## Membership Form

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.

To view a list of current members, please visit <http://www.akrdc.org/links/>

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

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

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

(corporate members only)

Referred by (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Levels

	<i>Corporate</i>	<i>Individual</i>
Platinum	\$3000 and up	\$500 and up
Gold	\$1500	\$300
Silver	\$750	\$150
Basic	\$500	\$75

Please select the category in which your organization should be classified:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications/Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal/Consulting        | <input type="checkbox"/> Timber                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communities               | <input type="checkbox"/> Media                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction              | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade/Business Organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering/Environmental | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Corporations     | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance/Insurance         | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil and Gas             | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Energy            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Industry Services |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government                | <input type="checkbox"/> Support Services        |  |

Membership Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Please Invoice Me  Check Enclosed

Charge my card: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*RDC is classified as a 501(c)(6) non-profit trade association. Membership dues and other financial support may be tax deductible as an ordinary business expense, but not as a charitable contribution. 15.9% of RDC support is non-deductible.*



Oil & Gas



Forestry



Fisheries



Mining



Tourism

121 West Fireweed Lane Suite 250 · Anchorage, AK 99503  
resources@akrdc.org · www.akrdc.org · (907) 276-0700