

Alaska State Legislature

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REPRESENTATIVE MIKE CHENAULT **SPEAKER OF THE ALASKA STATE HOUSE**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 9 (), U VERSION **SPONSOR STATEMENT**

Nearly two years ago, the Legislature passed HB 369 advancing an instate natural gas pipeline. Since that time, the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation has made tremendous progress developing a project along a solid timeline. It is imperative to maintain that momentum in pursuit of instate gas for Alaskans, while keeping open all options for participating in an aligned project.

This legislation will refine a solid, early proposal into a plan that the Legislature can decide to sanction or not. This legislation does not sanction construction of an instate gas pipeline, but allows AGDC to advance to that stage. The bill will also provide AGDC the tools to build its capacity to be a strong, participating partner in an aligned gasline project.

Along with a comprehensive update on progress to date, this summer AGDC presented the Legislature with a series of recommendations enabling the next stage in project planning. Those recommendations are incorporated within this committee substitute.

It is my intention to provide AGDC the tools that will allow them to refine a plan to the point of sanctioning by the Legislature. The state has invested hundreds of millions of dollars over the years in pursuit of our dream of gas, but we've consistently been held back by various roadblocks, internal and external, political and commercial. I want to clear those for this project.

This legislation is enabling and does no harm. It would facilitate gas development in the state of Alaska even if the project already on the table – AGIA – develops. It would also facilitate instate gas should we see the alignment of interests and projects the Governor is encouraging among commercial parties and others interested in both commercialization of North Slope gas and delivering Alaska's gas to Alaskans.