REPRESENTATIVE CHARISSE MILLETT

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March 5, 2013

Mike Pool Acting Director U.S. Dept. of the Interior Bureau of Land Management 1849 C Street NW, Rm. 5665 Washington DC 20240

[RE: Legacy Wells Summary Report, February 2013]

Dear Mr. Pool,

It has come to my attention your agency will be determining the eligibility of 48 Legacy Wells in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska for designation as national historic sites.

Throughout my public service career, I have seen questionable public policy ideas come and go, but with all due respect, this is unquestionably the worst idea ever to come my way.

What could possibly make polluted, leaking and environmentally hazardous oil and gas wells worthy of historic preservation? I am resolutely opposed to any of the wells receiving historic site designation.

It is my understanding that due to the age of the wells a historic site determination may be required. My question is would it prevent or delay plugging of the wells? Does your agency actually want the wells declared historic sites or is BLM simply following federal law?

The wells are leaking natural gas, crude oil and at least three of them can no longer be found. Your agency's plan for determining historic site status demands an explanation. Alaskans also want to understand why the federal agency responsible for protecting NPR-A has up to now not

taken the steps necessary to protect the air, water, land, marine mammals, fish and wildlife in the reserve.

My Legacy Well resolution (HJR 6) urges your agency to enact an aggressive plan to correctly plug and clean up the well sites according to regulations set forth by the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. It unanimously passed the house last night and has 26 co-sponsors.

I respectfully request your agency provide my office with a detailed explanation of why these polluted well sites deserve the protection provided by a historic site designation. This information will be of interest to all members of the Alaska Legislature and our constituents.

If you need any further details, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

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Representative Charisse Millett

CC: Senator Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate

Senator Mark Begich, United States Senate

Congressman Don Young, United States House of Representatives

Governor Sean Parnell, State of Alaska

Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell, State of Alaska

Bud Cribley, BLM Alaska Director

Kim Elton, Director of Alaska Affairs, United States Department of the Interior

Cathy Foerster, Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission