



March 19, 2015

Representative Ben Nageak
State Capitol Room 126
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator Lesil McGuire
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Dear Representative Nageak and Senator McGuire:

On behalf of Bering Straits Native Corporation, I am writing this letter to ask for your general support of the Arctic Economic Council (AEC). The AEC works to foster business development in the Arctic, engages in deeper circumpolar cooperation, and provides a business perspective to the work of the Arctic Council, its parent organization.

The AEC was created under the leadership of the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and the U.S. delegation of the AEC is comprised entirely of Alaskans. Four of the six Permanent Participants are also Alaska based, which provides even more meaningful representation for our state within the Arctic Economic Council.

The creation of the AEC comes at critical time. With the possibility of oil and gas exploration and production in U.S. Arctic waters, increased international shipping, as well longer ice-free periods and changing storm patterns, coastal Arctic communities face new challenges and opportunities. The U.S. has proposed a structure that mirror's the rotation of the chairmanship for the Arctic Council. This means that the U.S. could also potentially assume the chairmanship of the AEC in April, which is the same time the chairmanship of the Arctic Council is handed over from Canada to the U.S.

Acquiring the chairmanship of the AEC for the next two years empowers Alaskans to set the agenda for responsible and sustainable pan-Arctic economic development. Bering Straits Native Corp. recognizes the importance and strength of the AEC. We also respectfully encourage the Alaska State Legislature to demonstrate its support of and confidence in the AEC.

Thank you,

Gail R. Schubert
President & CEO

Cc: Governor Bill Walker
Lt. Governor Byron Mallott
Senate President Kevin Meyer
Senator Donny Olson
House Speaker Mike Chenault

From: Mike Sfraga [<mailto:msfraga@alaska.edu>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:59 AM

To: Jesse Logan

Cc: Trevor Gutierrez

Subject: Re: FW: [UAF Chancellor] Senate Special Committee on the Arctic

Jesse - sorry for the delay in getting back to you. I read the draft and it is good. Linking the rotating chair to mirror the AC is good - and it would form a more aligned framework. I suspect US representatives in DC will push back on the suggested requirement to have the Chair come from AK. But - it's a fine idea in my opinion and we have the leadership and expertise. We may find that the US position on the matter does not include a guarantee, rather a statement along the lines of "whenever possible," or the "US will strive to identify and consider a qualified Alaskan," or some such language. Either way, placing AK centrally in the narrative and suggested leadership role is a very good thing.

I will be traveling Thursday so not available to call in; I tried changing my plans but am locked into what I have in place.

I will be monitoring email as best as possible, and you have my cell. Please call if something comes up or you have a question. If I miss the call (2 hours behind you) I will call you back.

Mike

On Fri, Mar 13, 2015 at 1:16 PM, Jesse Logan <Jesse.Logan@akleg.gov> wrote:

Hi Mike,

Not sure if I've seen you since Iceland. Attached is SJR 16- a resolution supporting the AC, the AEC and urging the chair ships to parallel each other. We have Trevor from our office working on the bill. I was hoping to get your thoughts on the draft.

Thanks again,

Jesse Logan

Office of Senator McGuire

Judiciary Committee Chair

Special Committee on the Arctic, Co-Chair

State Capitol, Rm 121

Juneau, AK 99801-1182

~~907-465-5159~~ direct

~~907-465-2995~~ office



Gana-A'Yoo, Limited

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26 February 2015

Representative Ben Nageak
State Capitol Room 126
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator Lesil McGuire
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Dear Representative Nageak and Senator McGuire:

On behalf of Gana-A'Yoo, Limited, I am writing this letter of support for the Arctic Economic Council (AEC). The AEC was created under the leadership of the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and the U.S. delegation of the AEC is comprised entirely of Alaskans. Four of the six Permanent Participants are also Alaska based, which provides even more meaningful representation for our state within the Arctic Economic Council.

Since the AEC is a newly established entity, the leadership structure and process is currently under review by its member countries. The U.S. has proposed a structure that mirror's the rotation of the chairmanship for the Arctic Council. This means that the U.S. could also potentially assume the chairmanship of the AEC in April; which is the same time the chairmanship of the Arctic Council is handed over from Canada to the U.S.

Acquiring the chairmanship of the AEC for the next two years empowers Alaskans to set the agenda for responsible and sustainable pan-Arctic economic development. Gana-A'Yoo, Limited recognizes the importance and strength of the AEC. We also respectfully encourage the Alaska State Legislature to demonstrate its support of and confidence in the AEC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Betty Huntington
CEO

Cc: Governor Bill Walker
Lt. Governor Byron Mallott
Senate President Kevin Meyer
Senator Donny Olson
House Speaker Mike Chenault



25 February 2015

Representative Ben Nageak
State Capitol Room 126
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator Lesil McGuire
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Dear Representative Nageak and Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation I am writing this letter of support for the Arctic Economic Council (AEC). The AEC was created under the leadership of the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, and the U.S. delegation of the AEC is comprised entirely of Alaskans. Four of the six Permanent Participants are also Alaska based, which provides even more meaningful representation for our state within the Arctic Economic Council.

Since the AEC is a newly established entity, the leadership structure and process is currently under review by its member countries. The U.S. has proposed a structure that mirror's the rotation of the chairmanship for the Arctic Council. This means that the U.S. could also potentially assume the chairmanship of the AEC in April; which is the same time the chairmanship of the Arctic Council is handed over from Canada to the U.S.

Acquiring the chairmanship of the AEC for the next two years empowers Alaskans to set the agenda for responsible and sustainable pan-Arctic economic development. Arctic Slope Regional Corporation recognizes the importance and strength of the AEC. We also respectfully encourage the Alaska State Legislature to demonstrate its support of and confidence in the AEC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Quyanaqpak,
ARCTIC SLOPE REGIONAL CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rex A. Rock Sr.', is written over the typed name.

Rex A. Rock, Sr.
President & CEO

cc:

Governor Bill Walker
Lt. Governor Byron Mallott
Senate President Kevin Meyer
Senator Donny Olson
House Speaker Mike Chenault
Representative Bob Herron

Ms. Julie Gourley, U.S. SAO, U.S. Department of
State
Mr. Jimmy Stotts, ICC-Alaska
AEC-Alaska (U.S. AEC Delegation)

Arctic Economic Council – Nils Andreassen, Executive Director, Institute of the North

The Arctic Economic Council (AEC), launched under the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, will be one of Canada's more important accomplishments during their Chairmanship, especially as it most closely delivers on the theme of Development for the People of the North. The AEC held its first and formative meeting last September, with three members of Alaska's Arctic business community participating as the U.S. delegation. Each of these individuals bring unique and different experiences and backgrounds to the AEC, and most importantly a firm understanding of Alaska's economy and business climate. I would argue that this, as well as a relationship with Alaska's Arctic, is most important when negotiating with business representatives from the seven other Arctic nations and six Permanent Participants (indigenous organizations). It is not the Arctic only that they must relate to, but how to structure and work toward a stable, competitive and capable economic environment. They must also clearly communicate to the Arctic Council that economic development must not be disembedded from the work of the Sustainable Development Working Group, and that the AEC can play a substantial role in further responding to multiple bottom lines within the Arctic Council.

The Alaska State Legislature's support for this now builds on a 20 year history of the Arctic Council but really a five year recent push to include economic actors because of increased business interest in region. The AEC will be independent of the Arctic Council (not directed by national policy or government agencies) but relied on by the Arctic Council for input into Working Group and Task Force projects, and could produce policy recommendations with implications for the AC or individual states. This is critical for Alaskan interests to be represented.

The AEC and the U.S. delegates can act as Arctic economic champions; articulate the importance of the Arctic and share with national and international audiences; highlight the importance of business in relation to the Arctic; and have a role as a conduit to domestic audiences. Ultimately, the work of the AEC should inform Arctic Council work products and positively increase overall the economic climate of the Arctic by streamlining regulations for efficiency of operations and addressing barriers to access (infrastructure, legal, capital).

These efforts remind us that we are not behind at all when approaching the Arctic. In fact, the U.S. and Alaska are clearly sensitive to increasing change and activity in the Arctic, as well as increasing attention outside the region. These are important and right-timed activities that will further lay the groundwork for a successful future resting on a strong foundation of healthy environment, thriving economies, resilient cultures, and sustainable communities. This is work that has been decades in the making, and Alaskans have been at the forefront of setting current and future priorities. The legislature continues that leadership.