

March 5, 2012

The Honorable Lance Pruitt
Alaska House of Representatives
Capitol Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support of House Bill 358

Dear Representative Pruitt,

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce (Alaska Chamber) is an organization dedicated to improving the business climate in Alaska. The Alaska Chamber represents hundreds of statewide businesses from Ketchikan to Barrow that share a common goal: to make Alaska a viable and competitive place to do business. Today, I am writing in support of House Bill (HB) 358.

Last fall, Alaska Chamber members adopted twenty-six positions they believe will positively impact the business environment in Alaska. One of the positions is: "Support Oil and Gas Exploration and Development in Alaska's Federal Arctic; Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA), and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)."

The Alaska Chamber strongly supports oil and gas exploration and production in Alaska's federal Arctic areas; including the Beaufort Sea, Chukchi Sea, NPRA, and the 10-02 area of ANWR. The Alaska Chamber also encourages the Alaska Congressional Delegation, the Alaska Legislature and Governor to support and strongly advocate for responsible development of these valuable resources, while the ASCC commits to actively support and participate in the education and advocacy efforts to open these areas.

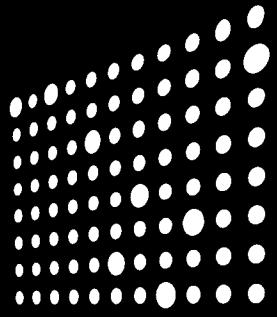
HB 358 would leverage state funds with private sector trade association funds to provide education throughout the nation on opening ANWR. Alaskans rarely agree on things, but polling indicates that 78 percent or more of Alaskans support opening ANWR. HB 358 would help educate our friends, family and fellow citizens across the United States on this important national issue.

The Alaska Chamber looks forward to continued support and eventual passage of HB 358.

Sincerely,



Rachael A. Petro
President/CEO



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