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February 16, 2023

Senator Click Bishop and Senator Cathy Giessel, Chairs
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for SJR 7, the Willow Project and National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska

Dear Senators Bishop and Giessel:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to provide comments in support of Senate Joint Resolution 7, supporting oil and gas leasing and development within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) to support the Willow Project over the finish line.

AMA is a professional membership trade organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. AMA's more than 1,400 members come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Alaska's miners are individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, major mining companies, Alaska Native Corporations, and the contracting sector that supports Alaska's mining industry.

While AMA represents members of Alaska's mining industry, we know full well the value of a robust oil and gas industry in Alaska. Given that in 1923, Congress specifically set aside and designated NPR-A to ensure American energy independence, and given the vast resources estimated to be in the reserve, AMA has been on record for many years supporting its development. Production from Willow and other fields in the NPR-A could reverse recent declines in throughput in the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), maintaining its viability and benefits to Alaska for decades to come.

On February 3, the Final Supplemental EIS (FSEIS) was published, addressing concerns from litigation and included an analysis supporting permitting of the Willow Project through its preferred alternative "E." This followed years of rigorous environmental review and stakeholder engagement. AMA urges the Legislature to swiftly pass resolutions that encourage the Biden Administration to move forward in finalization of the FSEIS without any further changes or delay.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important resolution, and for your work to develop opportunities for long-term benefits to Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director