



Alaska Conservation Alliance

"A Strong Economy and Healthy Environment Go Hand in Hand"

2/17/12

Representative Charisse Millett
State Capitol, Rm. 13
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Millett,

The Conservation Alliance supports HJR 29, which urges the Bureau of Land Management to properly plug legacy wells and reclaim legacy drill sites in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. The Alaska Conservation Alliance represents over 30 conservation groups with a combined membership of over 38,000 Alaskans.

Unplugged well sites on the North Slope pose a continuing danger to the environment, and it undermines our shared objective of development occurring in a responsible manner. The legacy well sites located in the National Petroleum Reserve are some of many underreported contamination issues in Alaska. Unfortunately, despite the danger, state agencies don't have the authority to enforce penalties. The responsible federal agency, the Bureau of Land Management, lacks budgeted funds to properly plug and reclaim the drill sites. That funding shortfall needs to be addressed. The unplugged and un-reclaimed legacy well sites, like all such sites across Alaska including dozens of sites on state lands, must be properly and responsibly decommissioned.

Passing HJR 29 will send a clear message to the Federal government and the Bureau of Land Management that Alaska is serious about preserving and protecting its environment. It will also send a clear message to private companies that Alaska is consistent with its demand of responsible resource development: that no entity, government or otherwise, will be allowed to harvest the state's resources while tarnishing Alaska for future generations.

The Federal government must make good on the responsibility it undertook when the legacy sites were drilled. Passing HJR 29 will send a clear message to the federal government and private companies that Alaska is serious about preserving and protecting its environment.

For the above reasons, the Alaska Conservation Alliance supports HJR 29. We appreciate the effort to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

Andy Moderow
Executive Director
Alaska Conservation Alliance

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