

GOOD EVENING MADAAM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE RESOURCE COMMITTEE – THANK YOU FOR GIVING THE PUBLIC THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY THIS EVENING.

MY NAME IS GAIL PHILLIPS; I AM A FORMER MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE AND AM SPEAKING TONIGHT ON MY BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF MY YOUNG GRANDSONS.

I SUPPORT THE WORK THIS COMMITTEE IS DOING ON TRYING TO FIND A REASONABLE AND LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO OUR OIL TAX CONFLICT. WHEN I SERVED IN THE LEGISLATURE, WE WERE FORTUNATE IN THAT WE HAD A STABLE TAX REGIME AND DIDN'T HAVE THE GRAVE ISSUE OF SERIOUSLY DECLINING OIL PRODUCTION THAT YOU FACE TODAY. AT THAT TIME, WE DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ALASKA'S COMPETITIVE STATURE IN THE WORLD MARKET – WE WERE STRONG AND PRODUCTIVE AND COMPETITIVE.

TODAY, ALASKA'S STANDING IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT. IT IS UP TO YOU TO SET POLICY THAT WILL INSURE A COMPETITIVE REGIME THAT WILL TURN THINGS AROUND AND MAKE US ONCE AGAIN A LEADER IN OIL PRODUCTION.

FINDING A LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO AN ECONOMICALLY-BENEFICIAL TAX POLICY IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO ALASKANS – ESPECIALLY THOSE OF US WHO, LIKE MANY OF YOU, HAVE CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN HERE WHO WE HOPE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE THEIR HOMES AND HISTORY IN ALASKA.

I RESPECTFULLY URGE YOU TO "STAY THE COURSE" AND FIND A WORKABLE SOLUTION THAT WILL CHANGE THE CURRENT ACES LAW THIS SESSION. I PERSONALLY DO NOT BELIEVE WE HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT BEFORE IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO TURN THE DECLINE CURVE AROUND AND MAKE ALASKA COMPETITIVE ONCE AGAIN.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND TIME.