Testimony of Andrew M. Keller

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I am very concerned about changes to ACES. Surveys from other states indicate that the link between tax breaks and industrial development is poor at best. It is questionable whether giving multinational oil companies tax breaks will increase production. Where is the evidence?

The relationship that Alaskans have with the oil companies is a business partnership. Therefore, if we give up something, just like in any business deal, we should get something in return. Alaskans have plenty of reason to be suspicious of big oil. These are the folks that claim that safety measures are in place, and then we get world class oil spills and a reluctance to reimburse the fishing community. I remind the legislature that oil interests bribed your own membership and some were sent to jail-over the passage of just such oil taxation issues.

Every time I have explained “progressivity” to others in Fairbanks, they have said, “that makes sense.”

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.