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February 10, 2017

Representative Dean Westlake
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 24
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HJR 5, Urging the U.S. Congress to open the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration, development, and production; urging the U.S. Department of Interior to recognize the private property rights of owners of land in and adjacent to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, relating to oil and gas exploration, development, production, and royalties; and relating to renewable and alternative energy technologies.

Dear Representative Westlake:

AMA writes to support HJR 5, which advocates for opening the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas development.

AMA is a non-profit membership organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,400 members that come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Our members include individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, vendors, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies. We look for and produce gold, silver, platinum, molybdenum, lead, zinc, copper, coal, limestone, sand and gravel, crushed stone, armor rock, and other materials.

While AMA represents members of Alaska's mining industry, we know full well the value of a robust oil and gas industry in Alaska. For many years, AMA has been on record supporting development of the "1002" area of the ANWR Coastal Plain. The Coastal Plain is considered to be one of the highest potential conventional oil and gas discoveries in our nation.

HJR5 brings Alaska to join the recommendations by the U.S. Department of Interior and Congress in the 1980's to open the 1002 area to responsible oil and gas development. The area was specifically excluded from a Wilderness designation in a compromise struck by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, and in exchange, Wilderness acreage was substantially increased. It is time to honor the intent of the ANILCA compromise and pursue development of the ANWR Coastal Plain. AMA joins the thousands of Alaskans supporting that development and urges swift passage of HJR5.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Deantha Crockett
Executive Director