

For immediate release:

September 8, 2017

VOICE passes resolution supporting ANWR development

Point Hope, Alaska – Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat (VOICE) announced its support for opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to drilling. The board of directors passed the resolution last week officially backing safe and responsible development in the refuge – specifically the 1002 coastal plain area that represents eight percent of the total ANWR acreage.

With this announcement, VOICE joins the Governor, the Alaska delegation, the leadership of the North Slope Borough, the majority of Arctic Slope village leadership and the overwhelming majority of Alaskans in calling for resource production in a small portion of the Arctic refuge.

“The VOICE organization and the villages it represents strongly support economic development in the region,” said John Hopson, Jr., mayor of Wainwright, Alaska and vice chairman of Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat.

“Collectively, we are concerned about the future of our communities and, as of today, we stand together, with our members from Kaktovik, in support of ANWR development as part of the economic solution for the Arctic Slope region.”

Oil and gas resources have been safely developed in the Arctic for more than 40 years – supporting our communities through infrastructure investment, business opportunities and much needed jobs. Industry revenues have built our schools, health clinics, sanitation systems and provided for other basic services most Americans take for granted.

“Opening the Arctic refuge to oil production would not only resurrect Alaska’s economy and the economies of our Arctic communities, but it would make the U.S. more energy secure – especially as China, Russia and other European nations produce increasingly more Arctic energy,” said Sayers Tuzroyluk, president of Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat.

“Most American’s recognize ANWR as home to crucial habitat but fail to acknowledge the needs of thousands of Iñupiat who call the Arctic Slope home. Today’s announcement should send a clear message that the people who live here, the ones who are undeniably most affected by Arctic policy decisions, support ANWR development and fully expect to be included in the debate,” added Tuzroyluk.