



March 4, 2022

The Honorable Josiah Patkotak
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau AK, 99801

Chairman Patkotak,

The Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS), the North Slope Borough (the Borough) and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) write in strong support of House Joint Resolution Number 34, *“Supporting oil and gas leasing and development within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska”* (HJR 34).

The North Slope region of Alaska spans an area nearly the size of the state of Minnesota within that area, there are eight Iñupiat communities - Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point Lay, Utqiagvik and Wainwright.

The National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPR-A) encompasses roughly twenty-three million acres within the boundaries of the North Slope and exists as a resource to meet the energy needs of the United States of America. Development projects within the NPR-A not only support our country in meeting its energy needs but also support our region in providing essential services to the residents and communities of our region.

While the Iñupiat people have lived on Alaska’s North Slope for thousands of years, our organizations have only existed for about fifty years. One of the first mutual achievements by our past leaders was working with the federal government and industry to ensure resource development was done safely and responsibly and that communities closest to the development would have an active role in the planning and development of resources.

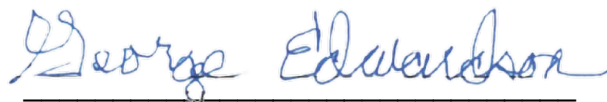
In 1987, the NPR-A Impact Mitigation Program was established for communities to apply for grants. Grant application priority is given to those communities most directly impacted by oil and gas development within the petroleum reserve. Funding from this program has gone towards improving our roads, wildlife management, living conditions, health clinics, schools and sewer systems to name a few.

In addition to supporting the communities of the North Slope, the development of resources of the NPR-A plays a significant role in supporting the United States’ achieving energy independence. The recent aggression by Russia in Ukraine underpins the need for the United States to work toward energy independence, support our national security interests, and put Alaskans and Americans to work.

ICAS, the Borough and ASRC extend our gratitude to you and your colleagues for introducing HJR 34 and elevating Alaskan voices on the importance of developing the NPR-A to decision-makers in Washington, DC.

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Quyanaqpak,



George Edwardson
President
Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope



Harry K. Brower, Jr.
Mayor
North Slope Borough



Rex A. Rock, Sr.
President and CEO
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation