

February 16, 2023

The Honorable Cathy Tilton  
State Capitol Room 208  
Juneau AK, 99801

The Honorable Gary Stevens  
State Capitol Room 111  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Speaker Tilton and President Stevens:

We strongly support Alaska House Joint Resolution 6 urging President Biden and the United States Department of the Interior to produce an economically viable final record of decision for the ConocoPhillips' Willow Project on the North Slope without additional restrictions or project-scuttling conditions. The unified voice of the Alaska Legislature is a powerful one in the fight for sustainable communities and economic stability that would be realized through the Willow project.

The majority consensus of the North Slope elected leaders and our constituents supports Willow and the economic activity the project would spur. Our Alaska Native entities must work together to effectively serve the Iñupiat people we represent.

Our three entities, the Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS), the North Slope Borough (Borough) and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) are three of those entities working closely together to protect the cultural and economic interests of the North Slope Iñupiat.

Established in 1971, the Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope is a federally recognized regional tribal government for the North Slope and represents over 13,000 Iñupiat tribal members. The mission of ICAS is to exercise its sovereign rights and powers for the benefit of tribal members, to conserve and retain tribal lands and resources, to establish and carry out justice systems under Iñupiat tribal law and custom, and to increase the services provided to tribal members now and for future generations.

The North Slope Borough is a home rule government located above the Arctic Circle that represents the roughly 10,000 residents in the eight communities of the region. The Borough's jurisdiction includes the entire National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPR-A) and the villages within it—Nuiqsut, Atkasuk, Utqiagvik and Wainwright. In 1972, the Iñupiat formed the Borough to benefit from oil and gas development on their ancestral homelands. Taxes levied on oil and gas infrastructure have enabled the Borough to invest in public infrastructure and utilities, support education, and provide police, fire, emergency and other services.

ASRC is owned by and represents the business interests of our approximately 13,600 Iñupiat shareholders, many of whom reside in the eight communities on the North Slope. Mandated by Congress to both operate as a for-profit corporation and serve the social and welfare interests of the people it represents, ASRC is committed to providing financial returns to our Iñupiat shareholders in the form of jobs and dividends, and to preserving Iñupiat culture and traditions.

The plan for Willow was developed through a years-long, rigorous environmental review process with significant involvement by and support from local communities and Alaska Native entities, particularly the North Slope Borough, the regional municipal government for our region. Furthermore, given its location within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A), the Willow project area has been subject to additional environmental review associated with the planning and development of the NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan. Willow is a well-planned, highly vetted, environmentally responsible project.

The long-term viability of our Iñupiat culture requires economic activity to sustain our eight North Slope communities and our subsistence cultural practices. Cultural survival, subsistence and economic development are intertwined and interdependent.

The record of decision must approve the final Environmental Impact Statement Alternative E with a minimum of 3 pads in order for the project to be economically viable and provide the economic, infrastructure, and employment benefits to North Slope communities and our people.

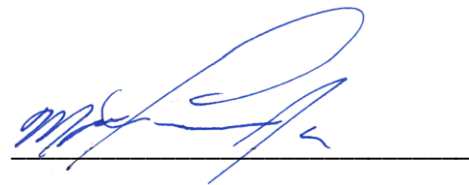
Responsible oil and gas development is essential to our economic survival. It is the primary economic generator for our region, and taxes levied on oil and gas infrastructure are by far the most significant source of funding for our local government's community service and infrastructure. Loss of economic activity on the North Slope means lost jobs and lost opportunities for our people in a region where economic opportunity is generally low, and the cost of living is extremely high.

We are united in our continuing support for the Willow project and thank the Alaska Legislature for standing with the Iñupiat of the North Slope. The Biden Administration must listen to the elected regional Alaska Native leadership who speak in unified support for Willow and to the Alaska Legislature through this joint resolution.

We urge you to support HJR 6 and add your voices to the calls for this project to move forward without further delay.

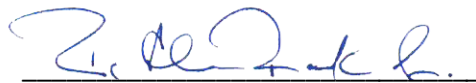
Sincerely,

IÑUPIAT COMMUNITY OF THE ARCTIC SLOPE

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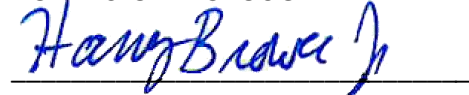
Morrie Lemen  
Executive Director

ARCTIC SLOPE REGIONAL CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rex A. Rock, Sr.', written over a horizontal line.

Rex A. Rock, Sr.  
President and CEO

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Harry K. Brower, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

Harry K. Brower, Jr.  
Mayor