



# SOUTHEAST STEVEDORING CORPORATION

## CONTRACTING STEVEDORES

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KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901

April 12, 2021

The Honorable Deb Haaland  
Secretary of the Interior  
The Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Subject: Urgent Support for Willow Project in Alaska's NPR-A

Dear Secretary Haaland:

Southeast Stevedoring Corporation has been involved in responsible resource development in Alaska for over 69 years and we are writing to express our serious concerns that the Department of Interior intends to review the currently issued Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and approved Record of Decision (ROD) for the Willow Project in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). This would cause a very costly delay in this project.

In 2013, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), under the Obama administration, issued a Record of Decision for an updated Integrated Activity Plan (IAP) for the NPR-A and the Willow development plan is consistent with that approved IAP.

The EIS process that led up to the Willow ROD took over two years, thousands of pages of scientific study and many thousand hours of public time and comments were invested into this decision. Based on this thorough public review, and in-depth environmental study, there is no rationale for another review of the ROD analysis for the Willow Project. The BLM efforts over the last 2+ years address the issues raised through the public comment process, and the hundreds of stipulations and best management practices the project will be required to follow.

Additionally, U.S. District Court has denied in full preliminary injunction motions filed by outside environmental advocacy organizations in two separate cases challenging the Record of Decision. The local people in the North Slope Borough provided a declaration with overwhelming support to allow the Willow Project to proceed. The people of Alaska need this project to continue.

Alaska's economy has been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic and this project will provide over 2,000 construction jobs and hundreds of long-term jobs that are desperately needed. It will also bring in significant revenue to federal, state, and local governments which is critical in Alaska's efforts to recover from the pandemic. The BLM estimates the project will generate over \$1.2 billion in property tax to the North Slope

Borough, \$2.3 billion in revenue to the State of Alaska and \$7.6 Billion to the Federal Government over the life of the project. We all need these resources and this revenue.

While there is a strong focus and desire to move toward greener energy sources that process will take time and the State of Alaska and all of America still needs to develop our own natural resources to meet the needs of our Country. The demand for these natural resources will not decrease and for us to continually stop projects like this that can be responsibly developed in our Country where we have strict regulations is only exporting potential environmental concerns to other countries who are not going to protect the environment as well as we do. The Department of Interior should be a leading Agency to promote a fully approved project like this and not delay it for further so we can responsibly use our own natural resources.

We ask for your support for the current ROD and allow the Willow project to proceed as planned and approved.

Sincerely,



Les Cronk

Vice President

Southeast Stevedoring Corporation