



February 23, 2022

Sent Via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Debra Haaland  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
[raina\\_thiele@ios.doi.gov](mailto:raina_thiele@ios.doi.gov)

Re: AFN Continued Support for the Willow Project

Dear Secretary Haaland:

On behalf of the Co-Chairs and Board of Directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), I write to share our long-standing support for the Alaska Willow Project in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A).

The Willow project has undergone stringent environmental permitting and a vigorous community engagement process. It was planned based on the requirements of the 2013 NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan under the Obama-Biden Administration and Secretary Salazar with the highest standards for environmental stewardship. The permitting and environmental review process encompassed a period of well over two years and included multiple rounds of public comment and public meetings with Alaska Native stakeholders. AFN appreciates the outreach and communication between ConocoPhillips and the Alaska Native community and considers the process a model for other development initiatives.

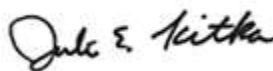
AFN understands that the need for a proactive whole of government approach to deal with climate change; however fossil fuels will be with us for quite some time to come, and projects like Willow can help bridge the gap. As such, delaying Willow any further will only hinder Alaska's economic recovery. The Willow Project could jumpstart our economy with thousands of jobs and be a model in community and environmental stewardship for future opportunities.

Additionally, the international crisis in Ukraine highlights the Willow project's importance to our national security. The looming invasion of Ukraine by Russia is already stressing global energy markets. The Willow Project is a critical opportunity for the U.S. to expand domestic energy supplies and security while creating economic opportunities to help Alaska recover from the pandemic. As such, I strongly urge you to support the current

record of decision and allow the Willow project to move forward as planned and previously approved.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me directly at (907) 274-3611.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie E. Kitka". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Kitka  
President

Cc: U.S. Congressman Don Young  
U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski  
U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan