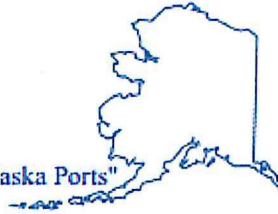


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April 7, 2021

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:

As a Maritime Services company who has worked closely the oil and gas industry for over 50 years Alaska Port Services (APS) urges the Department of Interior to allow the Willow Project in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) to proceed with the currently issued Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Record of Decision (ROD). We are concerned about reports that the Department intends to review the current EIS and ROD. This review of the Willow Project will cause harmful delays for a project that has incorporated the best mitigation practices available.

APS and her waterfront partners provide skilled jobs developing, transporting, and exporting Alaska's oil and gas resources in an environmentally responsible way. With the waterfront's excellent safety and environmental record, we rely on such skillfully executed projects to ensure the maximum reasonable protection for personnel and the environment. The current political transition must include family-supporting jobs and maintain environmentally responsible endeavors like the Willow Project to ensure the economic health of Alaska and our nation.

The Willow Project was planned based on the requirements of the 2013 NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan (IAP) 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 2 years. There were multiple rounds of public comment and public meetings, numerous meetings between the agencies and ConocoPhillips; over 100 public meetings involving Alaska Native stakeholders; and multiple significant revisions to the project to respond to suggestions and concerns from the Alaska Native community.

The project is subject to over 270 mitigation measures and best practices from the 2013 Integrated Activity Plan. In addition, the Willow Project involves

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many proactive mitigations by ConocoPhillips. Specifically, the Willow Project has focused on lowering emissions and powering drilling rigs electrically once facilities are installed as well as increasing energy efficiency over traditional installations on the North Slope. During the North Slope Borough Rezoning Process, there were additional mitigations incorporated in the project. These include using foam insulation in roads to reduce road height and gravel quantities. The airport footprint was reduced along with adding restrictions for traffic and airport plans. There is also an extended and expanded oil spill mitigation agreement. In addition to the in-depth mitigation measures of the Willow project, hallmarks of the project planning have been community involvement, stewardship, and respect for subsistence and caribou.

By implementing the best mitigation measures and incorporating deep engagement with stakeholders, the Willow Project can be a model to show what we can accomplish when we bring together workers, responsible industry partners, environmental partners, and local communities. For the future of Alaska's jobs and our economy, I urge you to support the current Record of Decision and allow the Willow project to move forward as planned and previously approved.

Very Respectfully,


Andrew J. Mew

Alaska Port Services®
Anchorage, AK

Cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Dan Sullivan
Congressman Don Young