

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

November 8, 2019

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt:

We write to thank you for your leadership at the Department of the Interior (DOI) and offer our strong support for the Bureau of Land Management's ongoing development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Willow Master Development Plan in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). This project is critical to the economic wellbeing of our state, national energy security, and the administration's strategy of energy dominance.

We hope the environmental review process will continue expeditiously and on-schedule, and we encourage you to continue to make the Willow project a priority for the Department. We specifically support the continued evaluation of Alternative B, BLM's preferred alternative, as the most feasible and appropriate path forward.

The Willow project has the potential to produce 130,000 barrels of oil per day, leading to the development of well over half a billion barrels over the life of the project. This will provide much-needed throughput for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, which is critical national infrastructure but running at just one-quarter capacity and facing operational challenges as a result. It will also generate billions of dollars for the U.S. Treasury and the American people, consistent with DOI's statutory obligations to manage the NPR-A for oil and gas production. We know the Department is focused on these and further benefits that Willow will bring, and hope that they will be considered in detail as the Final EIS is developed.

The project will also provide significant benefits to Alaska's workforce and our statewide economy. The multi-billion dollar investment is expected to create thousands of direct and indirect jobs during a multi-year construction period, and will expand the long-term workforce on the Slope with hundreds of high-paying, high-quality jobs during operations. These kinds of positive social impacts are especially important right now, as statewide unemployment remains significantly above the national average.

We are likewise confident that development can proceed in a way that protects and preserves the natural environment of the NPR-A. As the draft EIS reflects, developments in Alaska continue to

show advances in logistics, technology, and design that allow more resources to be developed with smaller footprints. We encourage you to pay particular heed to the comments and input of the North Slope Borough and the State of Alaska regarding environmental protection as the final EIS is developed, and to draw upon their experience managing and regulating the extensive developments that have safely taken place on state lands to the east for decades.

In closing, we thank you for significant work by the Department to advance the EIS process to date. For the reasons above, we believe the Willow project is critical to the future of Alaska and we stand ready to assist however we can as the Department proceeds with its Final EIS.

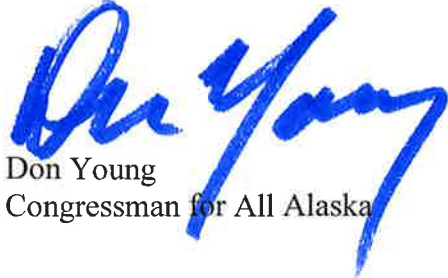
Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Don Young
Congressman for All Alaska