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December 4, 2023

Chairman Stauber
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Kaktovik Trilateral Support for HR6285 - "Alaska's Right to Produce Act of 2023"

Dear Chairman Stauber, Ranking Member Ocacio-Cortez, and other Members of the Subcommittee;

We, the undersigned entities, namely the Native Village of Kaktovik representing our local tribe, the City of Kaktovik as our local municipal government, and the Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation (KIC) as our local ANSCA village corporation, wish to formally convey our collective voice of support for HR6285, "Alaska's Right to Produce Act of 2023." Following the impactful testimony of Mr. Charles Lampe, President of KIC, the trilateral perspective expressed herein underscores the unity and shared vision of our three entities, collectively working towards the well-being, cultural preservation, and economic resilience of the community.

The testimony of Mr. Charles Lampe, President of KIC, masterfully articulates the historical context, challenges, and aspirations of Kaktovik. As a trilateral partnership, we navigate the complexities of our shared history, collective Iñupiat values, and the pursuit of economic freedom within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). As the only inhabitants indigenous to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain, our collaboration represents a united front working towards a sustainable future.

Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation, as a private landowner holding approximately 92,000 acres (about half the area of Austin, Texas) of surface lands in the Coastal Plain, plays a pivotal role in our collective pursuit of economic development. The trilateral perspective emphasizes the interconnectedness of the Native Village of Kaktovik, the City of Kaktovik, and the Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation within the largest wildlife refuge in America. Our joint endeavors reflect the resilience and determination of a community that has weathered historical challenges and successes.

We express sincere gratitude for your work and Alaska's Representative Peltola in working across the aisle to introduce HR6285. Through your actions you show your understanding of the impasse we face by recognizing HR6285's significance in rectifying historical injustices and providing a legislative framework for the fulfillment of promises made in 1971, 1980, and again in 2017 under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Our support for this legislation is based on the understanding that it upholds the rights, existence, and contributions of the Iñupiat people. We believe that this legislation will create a synergy that will benefit the Iñupiat people of the North Slope.



The recent decisions, such as the cancellation of AIDEA leases, resonate as a shared concern for Kaktovik. Our unified endorsement for HR6285 signifies our collective plea for legislative measures that ensure stability, economic growth, and job opportunities for our community. The funds allocated for essential services are a cornerstone in preventing the deterioration of living conditions into third-world status. They form the backbone of our community's resilience against diseases, economic challenges, and social disparities, ensuring that individuals have access to the basic necessities required for a dignified and healthy life. It's important to understand how these funds significantly contribute to maintaining and improving our overall well-being.

Our community requires substantial financial support for the development and maintenance of crucial infrastructure such as sanitation facilities that include sewage systems, waste disposal, and clean water supplies. Infrastructure funding derived from development is vital for the support of our Community Winter Access Trail (CWAT), connecting our community to traditional hunting and gathering grounds. These funds also address the high cost of freight, a significant obstacle to housing development. This investment is critical for economic development, preventing landlocking, and ensuring accessibility not only by air but also by land and sea.

In the realm of education, urgent attention is required for the replacement of essential facilities, such as our gymnasium that we lost in a fire. Providing a secure space for our children to play and engage in sports activities is crucial for fostering a healthy environment for health and wellbeing. These facilities not only offer safety but also eliminate the need for our children to practice sports in challenging conditions away from potential dangers, such as polar bears.

Moreover, there is a pressing need for development to help us create and sustain local businesses, supporting community development and fostering self-determination. This financial support will play a pivotal role in promoting economic growth and stability within our community.

In conclusion, we respectfully urge the Subcommittee to consider the perspective shared by the Native Village of Kaktovik, the City of Kaktovik, and the Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation in endorsing HR6285.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue for our community and your focus on addressing the matter through your committee. We trust that you will consider the unique challenges faced by Kaktovik in shaping the future of legislation concerning Alaska's Right to Produce.

Quyanaq (Thank you),

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles C. Lampe'.

Charles C. Lampe, President
Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Gordon Jr.'.

Nathan Gordon Jr, Mayor
City of Kaktovik

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Edward Rexford Sr.'.

Edward Rexford Sr., President
Native Village of Kaktovik

cc: Representative Mary Peltola
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Dan Sullivan