



ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS of ALASKA

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September 14, 2023

Honorable Bruce Westerman
U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Proposed NPR-A and ANWR Lease Cancellations

Dear Chair Westerman,

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Alaska, I write to express our appreciation for the upcoming hearing scheduled on September 19th with the House Committee on Natural Resources. This hearing is of utmost importance to us as it pertains to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A), areas that have a significant impact on our industry and the state of Alaska as a whole.

AGC of Alaska is the construction industry's largest professional trade association, representing over 620 Alaskan contractors, specialty contractors, suppliers, manufacturers, and businesses in Alaska. AGC members abide by the best practices in the industry and take pride in their work to support vital infrastructure and connect Alaska. At AGC, we don't represent any specific resource industry. We instead advocate for a healthy economy, responsible environmental/developmental partnerships, and proper, legal, and well-established permitting and review process.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) are invaluable assets to Alaska and the United States as a whole. These regions are not only rich in natural beauty but also harbor vast energy resources that play a vital role in powering our nation. The responsible development of these resources is essential for our energy security, economic prosperity, and job creation.

With that said, we are deeply concerned by recent actions taken by the Department of the Interior that disregard federal law and regulations. The recent decision to unilaterally throw out oil and gas leases in a small portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) sets a dangerous precedent by undoing legally obtained leases, and sending a clear message that investment in the United States can be undermined at any moment.

Alaska's construction industry is dedicated to sustainable growth and responsible development. We recognize the need to harness our state's abundant natural resources to drive economic prosperity, while also acknowledging the importance of preserving our pristine environment for future generations. We trust that our Congressional Delegation, in collaboration with the House Committee on Natural Resources, will engage in a comprehensive and thoughtful discussion to explore solutions that consider both industry interests and environmental stewardship.

We appreciate the House Committee on Natural Resources for providing this opportunity for stakeholders like us to have our voices heard and to ensure that any decisions regarding ANWR and NPRA are made responsibly and in accordance with the law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alicia Amberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alicia Amberg
Associated General Contractors of Alaska