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October 4, 2021

Ms. Serena Sweet, Project Lead
BLM Alaska State Office
Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Supplemental EIS
BLM Alaska State Office
222 W 7th Ave Stop #13
Anchorage, AK 99513

Dear Ms. Sweet:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to provide comments in support of the proposed oil and gas lease program in the non-Wilderness portion of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). AMA submitted comments in March of 2019 urging the agency to promptly proceed with preparation of the final EIS.

AMA is a professional membership trade organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,400 members that come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Our members include individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, vendors, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies. We look for and produce gold, silver, platinum, molybdenum, lead, zinc, copper, coal, limestone, sand and gravel, crushed stone, armor rock, and other materials.

The September 2019 Final EIS was found to be consistent with the environment, conservation of habitat and protection of subsistence and wildlife resources. BLM should continue with this FEIS and not modify plans through this supplemental document.

While AMA represents members of Alaska's mining industry, we know full well the value of a robust oil and gas industry in Alaska and the benefits it provides to our nation. For many years, AMA has been on record supporting development of the "1002" area of the ANWR Coastal Plain, as it is considered to be one of the highest potential conventional oil and gas discoveries in our nation. Our comments on the DEIS included respect of a wide range of alternatives which contain mitigation measures and practices to minimize disturbance, resulting in limitations to a less than 2,000 acre production and support facility. This is equivalent to just 0.01% of the Refuge's over 19 million acres. Alaska's oil and gas has a proven track record of responsible development in sensitive areas, including the Arctic, and thanks to continuing improvements and advances in technology, energy development and environmental stewardships have coexisted exceptionally well.

Polls have consistently shown Alaskans overwhelmingly support responsible oil and gas development on the Coastal Plain of ANWR, and Alaska's miners are with them. Conversely, any decision by the BLM to stall development and pivot away from the FEIS will serve only to stifle investment in developing Alaska's



resources at a time our economy needs it most. Your agency's EIS determined that oil and gas development can take place without harming the refuge environment, and it should proceed as such.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DSK', is positioned above the printed name.

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director