



March 7, 2022

Stephanie Rice
Bureau of Land Management
222 W. 7th Avenue, Stop #13
Anchorage, AK 99513

Re: Support Letter for Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Willow Master Development Plan

Dear Stephanie,

The Alaska Chamber (the Chamber) writes to provide feedback on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) on the Willow Master Development Plan submitted by Conoco Phillips Alaska, Inc.

The Alaska Chamber was founded in 1953 and is Alaska's largest statewide business advocacy organization. Our mission is to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members, representing 58,000 Alaskan workers and \$4.6 billion in wages.

The Chamber membership reviews, discusses, and votes annually on its policy positions and priorities. Among the dozens of positions of importance to the Chamber, two specifically apply to the Willow Project, and happen to be our top Federal priorities.

The first position has been a part of the Chamber advocacy agenda for over a decade. The priority states:

Support oil and gas exploration and development in Alaska's federal areas.

The Alaska Chamber strongly supports oil and gas exploration and production in Alaska's federal areas; including the Beaufort Sea, Chukchi Sea, NPRA, Cook Inlet, and the 10-02 area of ANWR. The Chamber encourages Congress to enact revenue sharing for Alaska and local communities. The Chamber also encourages the Alaska Congressional Delegation, the Alaska Legislature and Governor to support and strongly advocate for responsible development of these valuable resources, while the Chamber commits to actively support and participate in the education and advocacy efforts to open these areas.

The second position was adopted in December 2021 and immediately rose as a top federal priority. It immediately became a priority due to the onslaught of anti-Alaska and anti-responsible resource development policies coming from Washington D.C. The priority states:

Advocate for a federal regulatory structure that is balanced, predictable and stable. The Alaska Chamber anticipates that there will be significant federal administrative and legislative actions that will impact Alaska's businesses and overall investment climate. The Chamber stands ready to engage on multiple fronts in support of our existing federal positions. The ability of Alaska to responsibly develop its wealth of natural resources and support a diverse private economy is



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paramount. Advocating for a stable and predictable federal regulatory and fiscal environment is a priority of the Alaska Chamber.

Considering the Chamber priorities, in particular the emphasis on a regulatory structure that is balanced and predictable, the Chamber strongly encourages the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to focus the scope of the SEIS to specifically address the issues identified by the Alaska District Court in their decision of the EIS. The three areas identified are: climate change analysis, project alternative analysis, and specific aspects of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's biological opinion.

The majority of the Willow Master Development Plan EIS was upheld by the court and does not require additional review. Further, the EIS underwent extensive public involvement, with more than 140 days of public comment, 13 in-person public meetings, and a public scoping period. Ample time and opportunity were provided to the public and stakeholders to offer input on the EIS.

With recent world events threatening the globe's energy supply, it is more important than ever we have a stable regulatory structure that allows for responsible development of our *own* oil and gas resources in the United States of America. Reducing or eliminating our reliance on countries with far fewer environmental regulations and a clear disregard for law, order, and social justice is the appropriate and responsible course of action. Moving forward with the Willow Project would uphold our values as a nation of ensuring social equity and environmental justice and would provide for greater national security.

In closing, the Chamber urges swift action in addressing the specific issues identified by the Alaska District Court in the SEIS and issuance of a Record of Decision.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kati Capozzi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kati Capozzi
President & CEO