



PRESS RELEASE

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AIDEA Requests Statutory, Regulatory Evidence for Oil and Gas Lease Suspension from Department of Interior

(Anchorage) – The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) has issued a formal letter in response to the U.S. Department of Interior’s recent announcement to suspend oil and gas leases under the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program (1002 Area) in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

Specifically, AIDEA calls upon the Department of Interior to address the statutory or regulatory grounds for the suspension, which the Department failed to identify in its notice to AIDEA, and requests the opportunity to review and comment on any suspension actions directly with Department officials.

“The Department’s suspension threatens local and state government revenue, economic development, and employment opportunities for all Alaskans,” said **AIDEA Executive Director Alan Weitzner**. “This suspension has a disproportionately negative economic impact on Alaska Native communities on the North Slope that directly benefit from tax revenue on oil and gas infrastructure that funds local services, schools, health clinics, housing, emergency response, water and wastewater, heat and electric utilities, and countless essential services.”

The Native Village of Kaktovik is the only federally recognized community in the 1002 Area, and they, along with more than 20 other Alaska Native organizations and corporations located in and around the 1002 Area have advocated for responsible development of oil and gas on the North Slope. These include: Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation, City of Kaktovik, North Slope Borough, Arctic Slope Native Association, City of Anaktuvuk Pass, City of Point Hope, Native Village of Atqasuk, Olgoonik Corporation, City of Atqasuk, City of Wainwright, Native Village of Point Lay, Tikigaq Corporation, Atqasuk Corporation, City of Utqiagvik, Iłisaġvik College, Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation, Nunamiut Corporation, Native Village of Point Hope, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Wainwright Tribal Council, Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, Native Village of Barrow, and North Slope Borough School District.

This spring, the Alaska State Legislature passed HJR 12, which urges the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management to honor the lease sale and proceed with permitting as well as to defend the 2020 Record of Decision approving the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Lease Program.

AIDEA holds seven valid and enforceable leases covering 365,775 acres within the Section 1002 Area, which provides AIDEA with legal, exclusive rights of access to explore for reserves and develop the tracts. The Department’s description of the additional reviews it intends to undertake during the suspension of operations and production raises serious questions about the Department’s compliance with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and other binding

legal authority. AIDEA will continue to assert its legal rights as authorized for the responsible development of its leases.

Links:

- [Link to DOI's letter to AIDEA](#)
- [Link to AIDEA's response to DOI](#)

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is a public corporation of the state. AIDEA's purpose is to promote, develop and advance the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Alaska. Since 1967, AIDEA has been responsible for directing more than \$3 billion in economic development in Alaska and has declared \$439.7 million in dividends to Alaska since 1997.

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