



PRESS RELEASE

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North Slope Borough and ASRC Join AIDEA Lawsuit Against President Biden for Violation of ANWR Section 1002 Leases

(Anchorage) – Wednesday, December 8, 2021, the North Slope Borough and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) joined the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) in its lawsuit against President Joe Biden.

The [revised complaint](#) is in direct response to the Biden Administration’s unlawful actions to obstruct and delay the development of AIDEA’s valid oil and gas leases in the Coastal Plain (Section 1002 Area) of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The North Slope Borough and ASRC are key stakeholders that represent significant portions of the people and lands across Alaska’s North Slope and are an important voice regarding the future use of the area.

“AIDEA’s projects must ultimately meet two very important criteria—be a good financial investment and to have community support. Being joined by the North Slope Borough and ASRC in this lawsuit shows me that this project absolutely meets both of those criteria,” said **AIDEA Board Chair Dana Pruhs**.

“ASRC has fought for nearly 40 years to open the 1002 Area of the Coastal Plain of ANWR for responsible development,” said **ASRC President and CEO Rex Rock Sr.** “Our perspective is based on the dual realities that our culture and communities depend on a healthy ecosystem and subsistence resources as well as natural resource development as the foundation of a sustained North Slope economy.”

Much of the economic development and jobs supported across the eight North Slope Alaska Native communities is the result of responsible development of oil and gas resources. Public funding from taxes on oil and gas infrastructure has significantly contributed to economic security within these communities and provided revenue to fund local services, schools, health clinics, housing, emergency response, water and wastewater, heat and electric utilities, and countless essential services.

“Our region has supported for decades, safe and responsible oil and gas development in the Arctic under stricter environmental standards than anywhere else in the world. Yet the federal government is focused on trying to stop our ability to produce oil and gas,” said **North Slope Borough Mayor Harry Brower Jr.** “Since the 1970s, Alaska has proven that energy development and environmental conservation can proactively co-exist. As Iñupiat, we maintain our traditional values, while our culture continues to evolve and adapt to the changing world around us. We support AIDEA and the Governor for continuing this fight.”

“The voices of the people who live in and around the Section 1002 Area of ANWR have been drowned out by Washington D.C.-based groups that have never set foot in Alaska,” said **AIDEA Executive Director Alan Weitzner**. “Responsible development of ANWR is supported by a majority of Alaskans, the VOICE of the Arctic Iñupiat, Governor Dunleavy, Alaska’s congressional delegation, and the Alaska State Legislature. We are proud to be joined by the North Slope Borough and ASRC as we defend our legal rights to promote economic opportunities for Alaskans.”

About the North Slope Borough

The North Slope Borough is America's northernmost municipal government for eight villages — Utqiagvik, Point Hope, Point Lay, Nuiqsut, Anaktuvuk Pass, Atqasuk, Wainwright, and Kaktovik — and encompasses an approximately 95,000-square-mile area that's nearly the size of Michigan. The Borough's jurisdiction also covers roughly 18,500 square miles within ANWR, including the entire Coastal Plain and the city and village of Kaktovik which is the only permanent settlement within ANWR. The Borough has authority over the planning, platting, permitting, and zoning of its lands and has successfully managed oil and gas activities on the North Slope for over 40 years in collaboration with the Borough's local wildlife biologists and subsistence resource experts.

About Arctic Slope Regional Corporation

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation is owned by and represents the business interests of its nearly 13,000 Arctic Slope Iñupiat shareholders. ASRC's Corporate headquarters are located in Utqiagvik, Alaska, with administrative and subsidiary offices located in Anchorage and throughout the United States. ASRC has six major business segments: government services, petroleum refining and marketing, energy support services, industrial services, construction and resource development.

About the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority

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 \$3.5 billion in economic development in Alaska and has declared \$439.7 million in dividends to Alaska since 1997.

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