



PRESS RELEASE

Communications Director
E. Colleen Bryan
ebryan@aidea.org
(907) 771-3024

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Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation the Latest to Join AIDEA Lawsuit for Violation of ANWR Section 1002 Leases

(Anchorage) – As of March 16, 2022, the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) is joined by all key stakeholder groups located in and around the non-wilderness Section 1002 Area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in its lawsuit against President Joe Biden for violating AIDEA’s valid oil and gas leases.

Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation (KIC) has joined the North Slope Borough (NSB) and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) along with AIDEA in a [revised legal complaint](#). “We can’t allow the federal government to arbitrarily shut down good-paying jobs for Alaska Native families and cut off revenue streams for local and state governments,” said **AIDEA Board Chair Dana Pruhs**. “The native shareholders of KIC represent the only village and private land owners in ANWR. We are proud to be joined by the people of Kaktovik in defense of our legal rights to promote economic opportunities for Alaskans.”

In addition to the direct employment and economic development benefits for Alaska Native and North Slope communities that are at stake, current geopolitical events are shaping the demand for domestic energy independence. In the wake of Russia’s recent invasion of Ukraine, President Biden announced a ban on U.S. imports of Russian oil last week. “Now, more than ever, our nation needs secure and reliable energy resources to maintain our economy as we transition to new technologies. Alaska is the answer and we are proof that responsible economic development and environmental protections can and do coexist,” said **AIDEA CEO Alan Weitzner**.

Through an executive order his first day in office, President Biden announced a moratorium on all oil and gas leasing activities in ANWR followed by a suspension of the leases six months later. However, by August, President Biden was appealing for increased oil production from countries with lower environmental standards than Alaska. “The suspension of AIDEA’s leases should be lifted immediately as a matter of national and economic security,” said **Pruhs**.

The Native Village of Kaktovik is the only federally recognized community in the 1002 Area, and they, along with a coalition of 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. Recently, North Slope Borough **Mayor Harry Brower Jr.** and **Rep. Josiah Patkotak** (Utqiagvik) jointly authored an op-ed featured in the Wall Street Journal imploring the Biden Administration to [“Let Alaska Sell American Energy to the World.”](#)

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.

Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation

Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation is the village corporation for the Native Village of Kaktovik, the only community residing within the boundaries of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and represents the only indigenous inhabitants within the 19.6 million-acre refuge.

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, Atkasuk, 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.

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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