PRESS RELEASE

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Kaktovik Supports AIDEA Coastal Plain Exploration Program

KAKTOVIK, Alaska — Leaders in Kaktovik are reaffirming their support for the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority's (AIDEA) exploration program on the Coastal Plain, calling the effort an important step toward obtaining the scientific information needed to evaluate the region's resource potential and inform future decisions.

For decades, the people of Kaktovik have advocated for a meaningful role in decisions affecting the lands they have inhabited, used, and stewarded for generations. Community leaders say AIDEA's seismic exploration program will provide critical geologic data while continuing the community's long-standing effort to ensure local voices remain central to discussions about the future of the Coastal Plain.

"Kaktovik has spent more than four decades fighting for the right to responsibly access and evaluate the resources of the Coastal Plain, ever since ANILCA placed our homelands at the center of national debate," **said George Kaleak, President of Native Village of Kaktovik**. "It is important for us to support seismic work on the AIDEA leases as a continuation of that long struggle; we see it as practical step toward obtaining the data needed to make informed decisions about our future."

Leaders emphasized that AIDEA's exploration activities are focused on gathering information, not predetermining future development outcomes.

Philip Sittichinli, President of Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation said, "Before informed decisions can be made, reliable data must be available**." Charles Lampe, KIC Board members added**, "AIDEA's program helps provide those facts. After 45 years, the Kaktovikmiut remain committed to ensuring that development conversations include our voice, our history, and our sovereignty over the lands that have sustained us since time immemorial."

Support for AIDEA's efforts reflects Kaktovik's commitment to balancing responsible stewardship, local opportunity, and self-determination for future generations.

About Native Village of Kaktovik

The Native Village of Kaktovik is the federally recognized Tribal government for the Iñupiat people of Kaktovik, Alaska, whose ancestral homelands encompass the lands, waters, and resources of the Beaufort Sea coast and the Coastal Plain of northern Alaska. The Kaktovikmiut have lived on and stewarded these homelands for millennia, maintaining an enduring cultural, subsistence, and spiritual connection to the region. NVK works to protect the health, welfare, cultural heritage, subsistence traditions, and sovereign rights of its Tribal citizens while advancing opportunities that support a strong and sustainable future for generations to come.

About Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation

Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation (KIC) is the Alaska Native village corporation for Kaktovik established under the 1974 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Representing the descendants of the Indigenous people who have occupied and stewarded the Coastal Plain and Beaufort Sea region for thousands of years, KIC manages land and business interests on behalf of its shareholders. KIC is committed to responsible stewardship of its ancestral lands, protection of the subsistence resources that sustain the community, and creation of economic opportunities that strengthen shareholder prosperity and self-determination for current and future generations.

About AIDEA

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is an independently governed public corporation of the State of Alaska established by the Legislature in 1967 to promote, develop, and advance economic growth and diversification in Alaska by providing financing and investment tools that support economic development, job creation, infrastructure, and responsible resource development. Since 1987, AIDEA has generated $60 billion in economic output, 13,300 construction jobs, and more than 10,000 permanent jobs. Read the Economic Impact Study here, and learn more at aidea.org.

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