



PRESS RELEASE

AIDEA Office of Communications & External Affairs
907.771.3024
27-2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 10, 2024

AIDEA Opposes Biden Administration Decision on Way Out the Door to Lock Up ANWR and Deny Alaskans Billions in Annual Revenue, and Thousands of Highly Paid Resource Development Jobs

Anchorage, Alaska - December 10, 2024 - The Biden Administration issued a Record of Decision that essentially blocks nearly all development of even a small part (maximum development of 2000 acres) inside part of ANWR's 19 million acres called the "1002 area". "Sadly, the Biden Administration continues to take illegal actions to stop all natural resource development in Alaska. Jobs from developing ANWR would offer high wages to Alaskans at a level that can keep families in state. Developing ANWR would also provide revenue for Alaska to pay the costs of government (such as education, and housing) while growing the Alaska Permanent Fund, property tax revenue to the North Slope Borough, and giving the Alaska Native shareholders of land inside ANWR boundaries a chance to develop their resources and use revenue for the benefit of their community, families, and children." Said, Randy Ruaro, Executive Director of AIDEA.

The Federal government estimates developing ANWR could bring Alaska \$2 billion a year in annual revenue, with a total of \$40 billion in revenue, the North Slope Borough \$49 million a year in revenue, with a total of \$1.1 billion and create thousands of good paying jobs. [See, Tables C-6, C-7, and C-8 of FSEIS by the Federal Bureau of Land Management. Copies, attached.](#) AIDEA's own recent analysis of the geology of ANWR supports estimates of billions of barrels of recoverable oil in ANWR and on AIDEA's leases.

The federal Department of Interior's Record of Decision sets up what is essentially a mirage of an ANWR lease sale but when one looks closer, the terms are so restrictive and extreme it is nearly impossible to economically develop leases or even set foot in ANWR. Unfortunately, [AIDEA's comments about these overly restrictive terms and conditions](#) were completely ignored by the federal agency.

In addition, the Department of Interior has said it will require successive brand new NEPA decisions at each and every one of the steps forward in ANWR. (Leasing, Exploration, Development, Production, and Transportation of oil and gas) Federal agencies can take decades to complete a NEPA and even then, pull that decision back, review, and possibly issue a completely different decision for political purposes. (President Biden made a campaign promise that he would stop development of ANWR) Litigation by environmental

groups funded by interests from outside of Alaska would then seek further delay to destroy the ability to develop ANWR in a reasonable and economic manner.

Federal law is actually very clear when it comes to ANWR:

“The Secretary shall establish a competitive oil and gas program for the leasing, development, production and transportation of oil and gas from the Coastal Plain.”

Sec. 20001(b)(2)(A), Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017. “Shall” means the Secretary must offer terms and condition in a lease sale that allow each and every lease to be developed under economically reasonable terms.

Further, the Secretary must apply a reasonable set of terms and conditions that allow development of oil and gas to the areas and leases inside the ANWR 1002 area with the best potential for oil and gas deposits. Sec. 20001(c)(1)(B)(i)(II).

As former Senator Ted Stevens said in 2003 about oil and gas development in the 1002 area of ANWR: “I have been a very strong supporter of allowing oil and gas exploration in the coastal plain of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. The resources can be developed safely, as the experience at Prudhoe Bay has demonstrated. While the oil and gas industry must be subjected to rigorous environmental regulation, it can operate in a way that will protect the environment. Development of ANWR would provide a significant number of jobs for Alaskans and significant income to the state.”

“The Biden administration has cloaked its latest sanction on Alaska as a lease sale in ANWR,” said Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy. “The truth is this lease sale is designed to fail. It limits exploration to the largest extent possible while trying to pass it off as following the law passed by Congress to offer leases that have a legitimate chance of success. The upside here is that in a matter of weeks the Trump administration will come into office and prioritize safe oil and gas development that provides stable and secure energy. Alaska’s four yearlong nightmare ends January 20th.”

“We are completely shocked and appalled by this ROD, it reflects a predetermined outcome to the entire process. Kaktovik has received little attention and input into this decision despite these lands being our homelands. We actively participated in the 2020 EIS and thought we would be treated similarly under this process but we have not. We join AIDEA in opposing this decision. We have tried to rely on weak promises from the federal government since Statehood and this is another example of cultural assassination by the Biden Administration. We will continue to fight for our rights,” said Charles Lampe, President of Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation.

For information about AIDEA or any of AIDEA’s projects, please visit www.aidea.org or contact AIDEA at communications@aidea.org.

About AIDEA: The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is a public corporation of the State of Alaska. AIDEA's purpose is to promote, develop, and advance the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Alaska.

###