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March 7, 2019

Senator Chris Birch, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Birch:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to provide comments in support of Senate Joint Resolution 7, emphasizing Legislative support of oil and gas activity within the non-wilderness portion of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

AMA is a professional membership trade organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,400 members that come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Our members include individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, vendors, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies. We look for and produce gold, silver, platinum, molybdenum, lead, zinc, copper, coal, limestone, sand and gravel, crushed stone, armor rock, and other materials.

While AMA represents members of Alaska's mining industry, we know full well the value of a robust oil and gas industry in Alaska. For many years, AMA has been on record supporting development of the "1002" area of the ANWR Coastal Plain. The Coastal Plain is considered to be one of the highest potential conventional oil and gas discoveries in our nation.

SJR7 brings Alaska to join the recommendations by the U.S. Department of Interior and Congress in the 1980's to open the 1002 area to responsible oil and gas development. The area was specifically excluded from a Wilderness designation in a compromise struck by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, and in exchange, Wilderness acreage was substantially increased. It is time to honor the intent of the ANILCA compromise and pursue development of a small fraction of the ANWR Coastal Plain. AMA joins the thousands of Alaskans supporting such development and urges swift passage of SJR7.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Deantha Crockett
Executive Director