



April 27, 2018

Chief, Leasing Section  
BOEM, Alaska OCS Region  
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500  
Anchorage, AK 99503-5823

**Re: Support for the proposed 2019 Beaufort Sea lease sales**

To whom it may concern:

The Alaska Chamber supports the proposed 2019 oil and gas lease sale in the Beaufort Sea Planning Area, as included in the 2019-2024 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program (DPP).

The Chamber is a non-profit founded in 1953 working to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. The Chamber is the voice of small and large business representing hundreds of employers and local chambers across Alaska. Our member companies employ over 100,000 hard-working Alaskans. We have long supported resource development that is both done in a responsible manner and brings economic opportunities to Alaska and its residents.

Alaska's Beaufort, as well as Chuckchi Seas, have the potential to hold over 24 billion barrels of oil and 133 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Development of these energy resources could mean 35,000 annual direct and indirect jobs over the next 50 years representing a payroll of over \$70 billion. Revenues to federal, state, and local governments will also have a huge impact with an estimated \$200 billion going to the various levels of government. Alaskans overwhelmingly recognize the benefits that the exploration and production of oil and gas in Alaska's Arctic offshore. A recent public opinion survey conducted by Dittman Research on behalf of 809 likely voters shows that 67 percent of Alaskans said they support responsible resource development in the Arctic OCS (see attached).

Developing Alaska's offshore energy resources will also help extend the longevity of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). TAPS has played a critical role in Alaska's economy and our nation's energy security. Without a significant new source of oil, TAPS may be forced to shut down, dealing a heavy blow to Alaska and posing an energy and national security risk to the nation.

The Alaska Chamber urges your support for responsible oil and gas exploration and development in the off-shore areas of the Arctic.

Best regards,



Curtis Thayer  
President & CEO