

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEIL L. BRADLEY
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT &
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November 15, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce strongly supports legislation expected to be considered on November 15, 2017, that would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish and administer a competitive oil and gas leasing program in the non-wilderness portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

The Section 1002 area that would be eligible for leasing under this legislation makes up less than 8% of the refuge, and Congress has previously authorized exploratory activities in this area. The United States Geological Survey estimates that the 1002 area contains as much as 10 billion barrels of technically recoverable oil.

Alaskan energy production remains critical to U.S. energy security. Bringing this additional U.S. oil on-line helps ensure a more secure energy future for the U.S. and our trading partners around the world.

The Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) celebrated its 40th anniversary this year, having safely transported more than 17 billion barrels of oil primarily to the lower 48 states. However, TAPS throughput today is less than a quarter of its capacity as North Slope production declines. If this trend continues, TAPS must be shut down and dismantled under federal law. New production from the 1002 area has the potential to prolong TAPS viability, and a vital piece of infrastructure, for decades to come.

The Chamber strongly supports this legislation and encourages the Committee to favorably report it.

Sincerely,



Neil L. Bradley

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources