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Alaska union and business organizations celebrate approval of Willow project

March 13, 2023, Anchorage– Today, leadership of the Alaska Chamber, the Associated General Contractors of Alaska, the AFL-CIO of Alaska, the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, the Alaska Support Industry Alliance, Alaska Trucking Association, Alaska Petroleum Joint Crafts Council, and the Resource Development Council for Alaska expressed enthusiastic support for the Department of Interior’s decision to approve ConocoPhillips’ Willow project.

The reaction comes after the Biden Administration announced its decision to accept Alternative E, which reduces the original permit application from five drill sites to three sites at the Willow field. Advocates for the Willow project had cautioned that anything less than that would make it uneconomic, essentially killing it. With this approval, ConocoPhillips will have the approval necessary to begin work on the new field, which is estimated to provide:

- 180,000 barrels of oil per day at peak production.
- 2,500 jobs during construction, 75% of which will be represented by labor unions.
- 300 long-term jobs.
- \$8.7 billion in royalties and tax revenues to local, state, and federal governments.

“Today’s decision is welcome news,” said Kati Capozzi, Alaska Chamber president and CEO. “We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the many Alaskans from diverse backgrounds who came together to advocate for this project. Alaska can continue our proud tradition of being the safest, most environmentally friendly place in the world to produce the energy our country demands. On the other hand, the Chamber is gravely concerned over the President’s tandem announcement that will restrict our ability to develop our resources in the future. We will continue to ensure Alaskans’ voices are heard through this process.”

“Our members are pleased we can get to work on this important project,” said Rebecca Logan, CEO at the Alaska Support Industry Alliance. “Hundreds of Alaskans will be put to work soon and thousands over the course of the project. While today’s announcement was coupled with the potential to lock up millions of acres to future development, we are going to focus on the positive and thank President Biden for listening to Alaskan voices that support responsible development and understanding the role that oil and gas will play in a clean energy transition.”

“With the Trans Alaska Pipeline currently moving around a half-million barrels per day, adding 180,000 more barrels per day from the Willow project is significant not only for the economy but also national security and energy independence,” said Kara Moriarty, president and CEO at the



Alaska Oil and Gas Association. “Producing needed oil resources here at home is better than relying on foreign oil all day every day. We will not tire of advocating for the long-term viability of our industry.”

“We see today’s decision as a huge victory for all Alaskans,” said Joelle Hall, President/CEO at AFL-CIO. “Thanks to President Biden and his team we are able to celebrate one of the most promising projects in America. Our members are ready to get to work!”

“Building Alaska is what we do, and now we can build Willow,” said Alicia Amberg, executive director, Associated General Contractors of Alaska. “Projects of this size do not come along very often and the reason we have long supported this opportunity for our state.”

“We have one focus; jobs,” said labor leader Joey Merrick of the Alaska Petroleum Joint Crafts Council. “Today’s announcement means more jobs becoming a reality for all the unions involved in keeping Alaska’s oil patch running. It’s a great day.”

“Today’s Willow Project decision is positive news for Alaska,” said Leila Kimbrell, Resource Development Council for Alaska’s executive director. “Many years of careful analysis conducted over multiple administrations from both political parties ensures this project will be done safely under the strictest environmental controls in the world. We owe a debt of gratitude to all Alaskans for speaking up in support of Willow, but especially our Alaska Congressional delegation, who fought like hell for Alaska’s role in America’s energy security.”

“We move Alaska and we are ready to move on Willow,” said Joe Michel, Alaska Trucking Association’s executive director. “We are excited to help construct and maintain this important new oilfield and appreciate our federal government recognizing that a vast majority of Alaskans wanted this project to go.”

About the Alaska Chamber

The Alaska Chamber is Alaska’s largest statewide business advocacy organization with a mission to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska. Chamber members come from every industry and business size across the state, representing 58,000 Alaskan workers and \$4.6b in annual wages.

About the Alaska Support Industry Alliance

The Alliance promotes responsible exploration, development and production of oil, gas and mineral resources for the benefit of all Alaskans. It represents more than 500 businesses who provide support to the oil and gas and mining industries.



About the Alaska Oil and Gas Association

AOGA is a professional trade association whose mission is to foster the long-term viability of the oil and gas industry in Alaska for the benefit of all Alaskans.

About the Alaska AFL-CIO

The Alaska AFL-CIO, established in 1943, is the state's largest labor organization, representing 50,000 union members belonging to over 50 affiliated unions statewide. We also strive to represent the interests of workers not represented by unions.

About AGC of Alaska

Associated General Contractors of Alaska is the construction industry's largest professional trade association, representing over 620 Alaskan contractors, specialty contractors, suppliers, manufacturers, and businesses in Alaska. AGC members abide by the best practices in the industry and take pride in their work to support vital infrastructure and connect Alaska. At AGC, we don't represent any specific resource industry. We instead advocate for a healthy economy, responsible environmental/developmental partnerships, and proper, legal, and well-established permitting and review process.

About the Alaska Petroleum Joint Crafts Council

The Alaska Petroleum Joint Crafts Council is a labor organization, representing almost 20,000 workers from the Laborers', Pipefitters, Teamsters, Operating Engineers, and the IBEW who build the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and have worked tirelessly for decades to maintain it as the economic engine of the state.

About the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.

The Resource Development Council for Alaska is an Alaskan trade association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's fishing, forestry, mining, oil and gas, and tourism industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

About the Alaska Trucking Association

The Alaska Trucking Association has served the needs of the Alaska trucking community for 60 years; becoming an advocate for the transportation industry before Alaska even became a state. Eugene Rogge led the way for the industry starting back in 1958 with our mission; to foster and promote the interests of the trucking industry in Alaska.

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