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Governor Sean Parnell
STATE OF ALASKA

May 18, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

Congratulations on your nomination and confirmation to lead the Department of the Interior. Your leadership and decisions will be significant to the future of the State of Alaska and the United States. I wish you the best and offer assistance and partnership from my Administration.

One area under your management is the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), as described in Section 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Act. The 1002 Area and the remainder of ANWR are the subject of a multi-year planning process led by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service to update the ANWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). My Administration has participated in several scoping and comment periods in regard to the CCP. Our comments and letters have encouraged DOI to consider the potential for oil and gas exploration and development in the 1002 Area. Indeed, we believe that such a consideration is required by law. To our disappointment, the Department of the Interior has indicated that they have no intention of considering this alternative for the 1002 Area.

Therefore, the State of Alaska would like to offer you two items. The first is the Oil and Gas Resource Evaluation and Exploration Proposal (the "Exploration Proposal") – a detailed proposal that satisfies a component that should have been included, but has been consistently omitted, from the ongoing CCP process. The Exploration Proposal is available at

http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell_media/resources_files/ANWR_051713a.pdf

http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell_media/resources_files/ANWR_051713b.pdf

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, which has some of the world's foremost experts on arctic oil and gas exploration and development issues, has dedicated a great deal of effort to assemble this document. I hope you will include the Exploration Proposal in the CCP's analysis.

As the Exploration Proposal describes, accurately defining the oil and gas resource potential is a critical part of understanding the value of the 1002 Area to the nation. It is also a critical factor in understanding the human environment associated with ANWR and Alaska's North Slope. With recent advancements in technology, responsible oil and gas exploration and development can be accomplished with very little impact on the environment.

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The second offer is a pledge to request up to \$50 million from the Alaska State Legislature during its 2014 legislative session to help fund the 3D seismic program for the 1002 Area as described in the Exploration Proposal. We would of course need a positive indication that the federal government would want to partner with the State of Alaska on such a seismic program before submitting a budget request to our Legislature at the end of the year. This would be in addition to generous exploration credits that the State of Alaska would be able to provide the private sector in assisting with the Exploration Proposal.

For 26 years, Americans have engaged in a debate about the wildlife and oil and gas resources on and underneath the 1002 Area. Unfortunately, ANWR's oil and gas resources have been estimated using archaic 2D seismic data. State of Alaska land managers have found that 3D seismic data is an indispensable tool to managing our lands. We believe that it would be very valuable for your land managers to have this data to inform their planning efforts for the 1002 Area.

I would recommend that the U.S. Geological Survey conduct this 3D seismic program in conjunction with the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGs) in order to provide a much-needed update to the 1987 USGS resources report to Congress. As you likely know, the USGS and Alaska's DGGs have a strong, cooperative working relationship that dates back decades.

I look forward to visiting with you at your earliest convenience about this and the many other topics that we can work together on to benefit Alaska and the United States.

Sincerely,



Sean Parnell
Governor

cc: The Honorable Daniel Sullivan, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Kip Knudson, Director State/Federal Relations, Office of the Governor