



May 5, 2025

House Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS), the North Slope Borough (Borough), and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC), we write to express our support of the provisions specifically related to restoring and advancing onshore oil and gas leasing programs in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and the National Petroleum Reserve, Alaska (NPR-A) included in the Budget Reconciliation Committee Print under Title VIII, Subtitle A, Part III.

ICAS, the Borough, and ASRC are three of nearly 30 organizations on the North Slope region that routinely collaborate to serve, provide for, and enrich the lives of those we represent, the North Slope Iñupiat. As the regional federally recognized tribe, the regional municipal government, and the Alaska Native regional corporation we collectively represent the communities of Point Hope, Point Lay, Wainwright, Atkasuk, Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow), Nuiqsut, Kaktovik, and Anaktuvuk Pass. While our roles are distinct, we work closely together to protect the cultural and economic interests of our overlapping constituencies.

The provisions contained in the Resources Title related to onshore development opportunities on the North Slope of Alaska are critical to the economic sustainability and cultural vitality of our people. For decades, the North Slope Iñupiat have responsibly managed our ancestral homelands for the cultural and economic benefit of our people and our communities. The reissuance of previously awarded leases in ANWR and the restoration of leasing in NPR-A represent steps to correct actions that have impeded our ability to provide for our communities, fund essential services, and strengthen our economic self-determination.

We thank Chairman Westerman and members of the Committee for being responsive to our region's perspectives and ensuring they are reflected in legislation that impacts our economic and cultural self-determination. We are ready to work with you to ensure its successful implementation.

Quyanaqpak and Taikuu,

Sincerely,

INUPIAT COMMUNITY OF THE ARCTIC SLOPE



Morrie Lemen
Executive Director

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH



Josiah Patkotak
Mayor

ARCTIC SLOPE REGIONAL CORPORATION



Rex A. Rock Sr.
President and CEO