



For the record, my name is Kati Capozzi and I serve as the President & CEO of the Alaska Chamber. The Alaska Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify on the review of the Willow Master Development Plan, Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. We are a statewide, pro-business organization representing hundreds of Alaska businesses and employees. Our primary mission is to advocate for policies that improve Alaska's business climate. Today, I want to convey our support for Alternative B, as its Preferred Alternative and module transfer Option 3 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Increasing responsible natural resource development and gaining access to resources are both long standing policy positions of the Alaska Chamber. We strongly support responsible oil and gas exploration and development in Alaska's federal areas including the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR).

The Alaska Chamber supports revisions to the proposed plan that reflect feedback from North Slope stakeholders and reduces environmental impacts compared to other alternatives by using less gravel fill, fresh water, and aircraft flights, while improving year-round access for local residents. Sound application of science and technology and intelligent, reasonable regulation can ensure that we protect the Arctic environment while developing the necessary energy resources to fuel our economy well into the future.

If the Willow project stays on its current projected timeline, it could create more than 2,000 construction jobs and 300 permanent positions at a time when Alaskans need jobs most. Moreover, the BLM estimates that Willow could generate more than \$10 billion dollars in federal, state, and North Slope Borough revenue. Alternatively, prohibiting development and production at Willow would set a dangerous precedent for future development in NPR, severely compromising the long-term energy and economic security of Alaska and the nation.

It is a strange and uncertain time, which makes it even more crucial for BLM's current public comment period to not be paused or extended because projects like Willow are critical to Alaska's economic recovery. We commend the BLM for finding innovative ways to continue to engage the public and progress permitting during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to remember that comments can still be provided through traditional means such as letters and email.

Furthermore, operators in the Arctic have a very limited window of time each year during which they can explore; any rules that unnecessarily narrow or unduly constrain this already short timeframe could delay and/or discourage exploration programs.

In conclusion, ConocoPhillips is making significant investments in our state because they believe in our potential to be the most promising energy producer for decades to come. It is imperative that you adhere to the current schedule for the Willow project as it has the potential to help



the United States meet its energy demand, create jobs, grow the economy and strengthen our national security in a time where Alaskans are suffering, some from the COVID-19 economic fallout.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my oral testimony.