



Chair Patkotak, members of the committee, thank you for inviting the Alaska Chamber to testify today. For the record, my name is Kati Capozzi, and I serve as the president and CEO of the Alaska Chamber.

The Alaska Chamber was founded in 1953, and our mission is to advocate for a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members and represents businesses of all sizes and industries from across the state.

The Alaska Chamber thanks you for introducing House Joint Resolution 12 and enthusiastically supports HJR12. Our top federal priority at the Chamber for years has been to support oil and gas exploration and development in Alaska's federal areas and to encourage and support the Alaska Legislature to strongly advocate for responsible development of these valuable resources.

Our reason for prioritizing this issue is simple: developing the 1002 area of ANWR would provide incredible opportunity all Alaskans, especially economic opportunities.

Responsible development in the 1002 area would provide an invaluable boost to America's energy security and bring much-needed economic growth potential to Alaska at a time when we need it most. Our iconic pipeline also desperately needs the new oil ANWR development could provide.

ANWR has incredible potential for oil and gas, more than 10 billion barrels by some government estimates. For reference, The Trans Alaska Pipeline has moved just more than 17 billion barrels of oil since start up more than 40 years ago, so the resource potential in ANWR is truly incredible.

A project the size and scope of ANWR would create thousands of high-paying jobs for Alaskans. In addition, with the Point Thomson development fully operational just to the west of ANWR, the 1002 area is closer than ever to existing infrastructure and could feed into TAPS with a much smaller footprint than in years past.

The Alaska Chamber was pleased to see potential development of ANWR making historic progress in recent years. However, with a new administration in Washington D.C., ANWR's future is less certain. We appreciate and applaud the joint resolution's sponsors for sending a strong bi-partisan signal of support for maintaining that momentum, and hope our collective Alaskan voices make a difference to federal policymakers.

Last but not least, the Alaska Chamber's statewide scientific polling of Alaskans' attitudes about ANWR continually show the vast majority of Alaskans support opening a small portion of ANWR to oil and gas development: Two-thirds of Alaskans support it and have for decades.

We thank you for introducing a resolution that stands to improve the business climate and create jobs here in Alaska, at a time we need it more than ever, and we offer our full support.



471 West 36th Avenue, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99503



Office (907) 278-2722
Fax (907) 278-6643



www.alaskachamber.com
info@alaskachamber.com