



Media contact: Kara Moriarty, AOGA, 907-351-1116

Alaska union and business organizations encouraged Willow may be approved

March 10, 2023, Anchorage– Following reports that Willow may be approved, 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 cautious optimism.

The reaction comes after sources shared with Bloomberg News that the Biden Administration is likely to approve the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Alternative E, which would reduce the original permit application from five drill sites to three sites at the Willow project. Advocates for Willow had cautioned that anything less than that would make it uneconomic, essentially killing it.

If Willow isn’t approved, it will make America more reliant on oil from foreign countries like Russia, Venezuela, and the Middle East that do not produce oil in the same environmentally sound manner as Alaska.

With this likely decision, ConocoPhillips will have the approval necessary to begin work on one of the most promising projects in America, which is estimated to provide:

- 180,000 barrels of oil per day at peak production.
- 2,000 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.

“We are encouraged by these news reports,” said Kati Capozzi, Alaska Chamber president and CEO. “ConocoPhillips’ Willow project will change Alaska and our nation for the better, providing more domestic oil, more high-paying jobs, and more revenue to local, state, and federal governments. We look forward to reviewing the final decision by Secretary Haaland and the Biden Administration.”

“It appears President Biden is going to do what he said he would do – put people to work!” said Rebecca Logan, CEO at the Alaska Support Industry Alliance. “We are encouraged the President has listened to Alaskan voices that support responsible development and understand the role that oil and gas will play in a clean energy transition.”

“It seems the Biden Administration is poised to make the right decision and will rely on the recommendation of their own agency versus political pressure from outsiders,” said Kara Moriarty, president and CEO at the Alaska Oil and Gas Association. “President Biden would be giving Americans the oil they need from American soil versus more foreign oil from countries with atrocious environmental records.”



“We are grateful for President Biden and his team are making good-paying union jobs a priority,” said Joelle Hall, president/CEO at AFL-CIO. “Thousands of our members will reap the benefits that come with working on a project like Willow. And when the hardworking men and women of Alaska do well, so does the rest of the state.”

“Our members are ready to start building Alaska,” said Alicia Amberg, executive director, Associated General Contractors of Alaska. “A project of this magnitude is just the shot in the arm Alaska needs to push our economy into high gear, and an opportunity AGC has supported for years.”

“Jobs, jobs, jobs,” said labor leader Joey Merrick of the Alaska Petroleum Joint Crafts Council. “Our support for this project has always been rooted in work opportunities for our members both in the short and long-term. We look forward to the President’s official record of decision to make these opportunities actual reality.”

“RDC is encouraged to see the Willow Project will get its final permits to move forward,” said Leila Kimbrell, Resource Development Council for Alaska’s executive director. “The technology that will be employed by ConocoPhillips to develop this project will result in one of the smallest footprints of any development on Alaska’s North Slope and is essential for our domestic energy security and independence.”

“Alaska’s truckers have one big priority: jobs,” said Joe Michel, Alaska Trucking Association’s executive director. “Willow will keep more trucking professionals employed and providing for their families.”

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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