

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH
PO BOX 69
BARROW, AK 99723



IÑUPIAT COMMUNITY
of the ARCTIC SLOPE
PO BOX 934
BARROW, AK 99723

February 28, 2023

Ali Zaidi, Assistant to the President and National Climate Advisor
John Podesta, Senior Advisor to the President for Clean Energy, Innovation and Implementation
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Willow Master Development Plan

Dear Mr. Zaidi and Mr. Podesta:

We are writing to you on behalf of our residents and as cooperating agencies concerning the Willow Project. It has recently come to our attention that the Willow Project may be in jeopardy. Specifically, we understand that a two-pad alternative may be in the works to replace Alternative E. Such a decision would be devastating to our region.

A two-pad alternative would, at a minimum, dramatically reduce our future tax revenues. However, we understand that such a decision would likely defeat the Willow Project altogether by making it into an economically unviable venture. Our indigenous residents are fortunate enough to still reside in their ancestral homelands. In the modern cash economy, oil taxation revenues sustain our community infrastructure, such as water, sewer, and heating, as well as our schools, healthcare facilities, and services, such as snow clearing, search and rescue, medevac operations, and wildlife management. Moreover, oil tax revenues provide for the majority of the employment for local residents and entities on Alaska's North Slope.

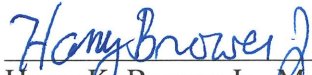
Unfortunately, oil production in the legacy Prudhoe Bay fields is declining. New development is necessary to maintain our current community infrastructure and services. Revenues from this project will be badly needed in the coming decades. It is becoming an increasingly realistic scenario with declining revenue streams that our communities will become unsustainable. If our communities decline, our subsistence traditions and lifestyle, which make up our culture, will inevitably decline as well.

We assure you that a strong majority throughout our region support this project and that it has been subjected to rigorous oversight and input by our organizations and residents. The North Slope Borough Assembly, our elected municipal body, approved the Willow Master Development Plan. We have worked cooperatively with the Bureau of Land Management and ConocoPhillips on the Willow Project since 2018, participating every step of the way by providing substantial public comments, cooperating agency comments, and by participating in numerous meetings and workshops. Through this process, we helped craft the project's stipulations and required operating procedures.

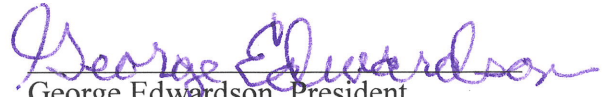
We demand that our voices be heard by this Administration. Our native leaders, the majority of whom are subsistence hunters, strongly support this project and do not believe that it will significantly impact subsistence hunting. This is also the opinion of our subsistence experts, our North Slope Borough Wildlife Department biologists, and others with expertise in this region. By working cooperatively with Bureau of Land Management and ConocoPhillips, we have developed the Willow Project into something that will benefit our region while minimizing impacts to the land, animals, and our subsistence lifestyle. After all the meetings, consultations, workshops, comments, EISs, permits, community debates, and lawsuits, to not select Alternative E at this late stage would be to ignore the Indigenous voices in the Arctic.

Please support and protect our region by advising President Biden and Interior Secretary Haaland to approve Alternative E for the Willow Project.

Sincerely,



Harry K. Brower Jr., Mayor
North Slope Borough



George Edwardson, President
Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope

CC:

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, Alaska
U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan, Alaska
Representative Mary Peltola
Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy, Alaska
Tracy Stone-Manning, Director of Bureau of Land Management
Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs
Tommy Beaudreau, U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior
Steve Cohn, Alaska Director
Raina Thiele, Senior Advisor for Alaska Affairs and Strategic Priorities
PaaWee Rivera, Senior Advisor and Director of Tribal Affairs
Nada Culver, Principal Deputy Director