

AOGA Testimony to
(H) Arctic Policy, Economic Development & Tourism
on HJR 5, Endorsing ANWR Leasing; Related Issues
January 26, 2017

My name is Sarah Erkmann, and I am the external affairs manager for the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, commonly referred to as AOGA. AOGA is a professional trade association whose mission is to foster the long-term viability of the oil and gas industry for the benefit of all Alaskans. Our members have been exploring, developing, producing, transporting, and refining Alaska's abundant natural resources in the arctic for more than 40 years. AOGA is proud of the industry's partnership with the people of Alaska, providing revenue to the state, economic opportunities, and infrastructure to the arctic region.

AOGA supports HJR5 for the opportunity it brings for all Alaskans, including economic opportunities.

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

A project the size and scope of ANWR would create thousands of high-paying jobs for Alaskans. With an industry-wide Alaska hire rate of about 70 percent, these family-sustaining jobs would go mostly to Alaska residents, who would spend their wages in our local communities, boosting both the State and local economies.

In addition, with the recent development of the Point Thomson field just to the west of ANWR, ANWR is closer than ever to existing infrastructure, and could feed into TAPS with a much smaller footprint than in years past.

Last but not least, polls of Alaskans' attitudes about ANWR continually show the vast majority of Alaskans support opening a small portion of ANWR to oil and gas development: 70 percent of Alaskans support it, and have for decades. We thank you for introducing a resolution that reflects most Alaskans' desires, and offer our whole-hearted support.