Following is the Alaska Oil and Gas Association's statement on Senate Bill 50:

AOGA is pleased to hear that consensus exists across the wide spectrum of legislators in Juneau around one very important issue: Alaska's oil tax policy is broken, and must be fixed. Indeed, acknowledging a problem is the very first step toward solving it. While debate continues about the best way to repair Alaska's oil tax policy, AOGA members remain willing to work cooperatively with any lawmakers who share our concern about the state's oil production, because when we work together, we win together.

While we have not had the opportunity to review Senate Bill 50 in detail, we will analyze its proposals with one central goal in mind: will it create policy that will lead to more oil in the pipeline? This is the critical issue facing Alaskans as we address continued production decline of between six to eight percent a year. With more than 90 percent of the State's spending money coming from oil, action to reverse this alarming trend is needed now. Alaska's economic future relies on it.

The Alaska Oil & Gas Association is a private, business trade association. Its member companies represent the majority of oil and gas exploration, production, transportation, refining and marking activities in Alaska. More information about the organization is available at www.aoga.org.

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