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AOGA applauds passage of Senator Murkowski's bipartisan energy bill

ANCHORAGE- April 20, 2016- Leadership at the Alaska Oil and Gas Association (AOGA) today expressed support for the passage of U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski's Energy Bill.

"Alaska wins with this bill," said Kara Moriarty, AOGA president and CEO. "Not only do we as a state regain some control over the overly burdensome federal permitting process as a result of this bill, but our chances at realizing a commercial natural gas project also are increased. We appreciate our senior senator and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chairman for working hard on this bill for months now, and thank her colleagues in the U.S. Senate for voting 85-12 to approve a bipartisan bill that moves our country's energy policy forward."

According to Senator Murkowski's office, the bill contains several key provisions that improve the business climate for Alaska's oil and gas industry:

Alaska Gasline Project – Allows for the rerouting of a portion of the proposed gasline through a section of Denali National Park and Preserve in order to avoid a seismic fault. This will continue to protect the park, reduce development costs, and ensure there are no major federal hurdles for this job-creating project.

Liquefied Natural Gas Permitting – Requires the Secretary of Energy to make a decision on any LNG export application within 45 days after completion of environmental review. This will ensure that Alaska's efforts to market its stranded natural gas can proceed in a timely manner without undue federal delay.

State Oversight of Oil and Gas Programs – Directs the Bureau of Land Management to coordinate with state agencies – like the Alaska Department of Natural Resources – on land management plans surrounding oil and natural gas production to ensure the federal government takes into account Alaska's proven track record of safe, responsible production.

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. More information about the organization can be found at www.aoga.org, on Facebook (AlaskaOilAndGas), twitter (@AOGA), and Instagram (AlaskaOilAndGas).

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