

December 1, 2006

## Open letter to President George W. Bush

### *Re: Maintain the Presidential Withdrawal Prohibiting Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing in Alaska's Bristol Bay*

Dear Mr. President,

We, the undersigned, urge you in the strongest possible terms not to lift the presidential withdrawal prohibiting offshore oil and gas development in the North Aleutian Basin, which encompasses Bristol Bay and a portion of the southeastern Bering Sea.

The presidential withdrawal for Bristol Bay, currently in effect until 2012, serves a vital role in protecting the world-class marine resources, sea life, fishing livelihoods, and resource-dependent coastal communities of the region from the potentially devastating ecological, economic, social, and cultural impacts of offshore oil and gas development.

We urge you to continue the history of protection for what is arguably one of the most important and sensitive areas of the nation's Outer Continental Shelf. We also request your help in working with the Congress to reinstate the bi-partisan moratorium on offshore oil and gas development in Bristol Bay that had, until 2003, been in effect for more than a decade. These protections have been in place because of the great risk to Bristol Bay posed by oil and gas development. The presidential withdrawal now stands as the last line of defense for this irreplaceable resource.

Sincerely,

David Harsila, President  
Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association

Butch Allen, Oceans Organizer  
Alaska Center for the Environment

Linda Behnken, Executive Director  
Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association

Eric Siy, Executive Director  
Alaska Marine Conservation Council

Elise Wolf  
AlaskaWatch

Kristen Miller  
Alaska Wilderness League

John Toppenberg, Director  
Alaska Wildlife Alliance

Bobby Andrew, President  
Aleknagik Natives Ltd.

Dora Andrew-Ihrke, Board Secretary  
Aleknagik Natives Ltd.

Dan Barr, President  
Bristol Bay Driftnetters Association

Ralph Andersen, CEO  
Bristol Bay Native Association

Brendan Cummings, Ocean Program Director  
Center for Biological Diversity

Debbie Carlson, Tribal Administrator  
Chignik Bay Tribal Council

Rhonda Gregorio, President  
Chignik Lagoon Native Corporation

Afonie Takak, Board Member  
Chignik Lake Village Council

Alice Ruby, Mayor  
City of Dillingham

Andrew Berguof, Director  
Choggiung, Ltd.

Bob Shavelson, Executive Director  
Cook Inletkeeper

Steve Branson, President  
Crewmen's Association

Thomas Tilden, Curyung Tribal Chief  
Curyung Tribal Council

Melanie Duchin  
Greenpeace, Inc.

Karen Stickman, President  
Kijik Native Corporation

Michael McOwen, President  
LegaSea

Karen G. Wayland, Legislative Director  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Jim Adams, Director, Alaska Office  
National Wildlife Federation

Edward J. Adams, Sr., Tribal President  
Native Village of Nunam Iqua

Mary Ann Yagie, Clerk  
Native Village of Perryville

Agnes Rychnovsky, Treasurer  
Newhalen Tribal Council

Pam Miller, Arctic Coordinator  
Northern Alaska Environmental Center

Jim Ayers, Vice-President  
Oceana

Whit Sheard, Alaska Program Director  
Pacific Environment

David Jenkins, Government Affairs Director  
Republicans for Environmental Protection

Mary Jo Rice, Executive Director  
Seaflo

Athan Manuel, Director of Public of Lands  
Sierra Club

Bill Meadows, President  
The Wilderness Society

Brent Paine, Executive Director  
United Catcher Boats

Rick Steiner, Professor  
University of Alaska

Wade and Wendy Willis, Owners  
Vision Quest Adventures

William M. Eichbaum, Vice-president for Marine  
Portfolio  
World Wildlife Fund

Representatives from:  
Togiak, Manokotak, Port Heiden, Chignik River Ltd.  
Corporation, Dillingham and Nondalton