

THE VOICE OF THE ARCTIC IÑUPIAT RESOLUTION

NO. 2022-02

Advancing the Willow Project to ensure a stable economic foundation for North Slope residents and communities

WHEREAS The Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat (the “Corporation”) is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit formed under the laws of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation’s purpose, as defined in its Articles of Incorporation, is to:

promote the social welfare of the Iñupiaq people of the Arctic Slope...including, but not limited to: developing local advocacy and engagement for the Iñupiat of the Arctic Slope to state, federal and international forums addressing Arctic issues; promoting an understanding of the North Slope economy within the region and encourage culturally safe and responsible development for economic sustainability; developing local content and responses with respect to activities within the region that allow for protection of the lands, waters and subsistence resources used by the Arctic Iñupiat for thousands of years; acting to protect the interests of the Arctic Iñupiat; becoming the local knowledge center for the communities and people regarding developments in the Arctic Slope region; and being a conduit for information transfer with outside organizations, including both governmental and non-governmental entities

; and

WHEREAS the North Slope Iñupiat have inhabited their ancestral homelands, which span roughly 58 million acres across Arctic Alaska, for over 10,000 years; and

WHEREAS the North Slope Iñupiat have adapted to thrive in the Arctic, living off the aquatic and land resources to sustain their lifestyle, traditions and culture; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Native land claims fight was a turning point in how North Slope Iñupiat engaged with the federal government; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) had one voice of opposition, the North Slope Iñupiat; and

WHEREAS the region’s opposition to ANCSA spurred the creation of the North Slope Borough, to ensure that there was a mechanism to capture the economic benefits of the oil and gas development that would take place on their ancestral homelands – an act of Iñupiat self-determination; and

WHEREAS the North Slope Borough exists to provide services like police and fire protection, village health clinics, search and rescue operations, education and others; and

WHEREAS the North Slope Borough can provide services to its residents and communities due to its ability to tax the infrastructure that supports oil and gas development, which comprises over 90 percent of the Borough's tax receipts; and

WHEREAS the 23-million-acre National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A), formerly known as the Naval Petroleum Reserve Number 4, located on Alaska's North Slope, was set aside by President Warren Harding in 1923 as an emergency oil supply; and

WHEREAS oil and gas leasing in the NPR-A is authorized under the Naval Petroleum Reserve Production Act of 1976, as amended including the Department of Interior Appropriations Act of 1981; and

WHEREAS responsible resource development, with the inclusion and meaningful engagement of North Slope Iñupiat has taken place for over fifty years, has created an opportunity to exemplify a positive model of cultural, economic, ecological interdependence; and

WHEREAS the region and communities benefit from responsible development on the North Slope, through, among other things, continued strengthening of the Borough's tax base, employment opportunities across the North Slope entities, contracting opportunities for the tribes and Alaska Native corporations, and more specifically, access to funding for community projects through the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Impact Mitigation Grant Program; and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the Corporation comprised of representation from all of the members of the Corporation, recognize the need by the Biden Administration to advance the Willow Project to further support the economic foundation of the North Slope region and ensure the sustainability and viability of its eight communities and the Iñupiaq culture.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors hereby approves and stands in support of the advancement of the Willow Project by the Biden Administration and urges the release of the project's Record of Decision by end of 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Corporation's management are hereby authorized and directed to take all such action necessary to give effect to this resolution.

RESOLUTION SPONSOR(S):

Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope
North Slope Borough
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation

CERTIFICATION

I, Martha Monnin, do hereby certify that I am the Secretary of this Corporation, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Alaska; that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation was duly held on November 3, 2022; that notice of the meeting was duly given; that a quorum attended and participated; and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, by order of the Board of Directors of the Corporation, this 3rd day of November, 2022.

Martha Monnin
Martha Monnin (Nov 3, 2022 12:33 AKDT)

Secretary

ATTEST:

Rex Allen Rock Sr
Rex Allen Rock Sr (Nov 3, 2022 12:38 AKDT)

Rex A. Rock, Sr.
Chair