



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

April 25, 2011

Representative Les Gara
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Gara:

Thank you for your February 28, 2011, letter, also signed by several of your colleagues, to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, encouraging resolution of issues that have delayed access to the ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. (CPAI) CD-5 project. The Secretary has asked me to respond on his behalf. Each signatory will receive a copy of this response letter.

The Secretary does understand the depth of frustration with the delay in reaching a final decision and is working with his Federal colleagues, the CPAI leadership team, the Alaska Congressional delegation, and the residents of the region to resolve the impasse in a way that allows the stalled project to proceed rationally.

The Secretary's active and continuing involvement to resolve the CD-5 issues is premised on several points: recognizing that the difficulties in bringing the CD-5 project online can inhibit the Department's future oil and gas leasing program in the NPR-A; understanding that Native Alaskans in the region, stakeholders who must live with any decision to safely access the CD-5 project, broadly support the CPAI permit; and recognizing that your goals, the goals of the state's executive branch, and the Secretary's goals in this instance are fulfilled by ensuring a rational path forward on CD-5 development.

Thanks for your service to the state and your continuing involvement on this important economic development issue.

Sincerely,

Kim Elton

Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Alaska Affairs

Thanks,
Les