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Alaska Oil and Gas Association's statement on President Trump's executive order

ANCHORAGE- April 28, 2017: Earlier today, President Trump signed an executive order that directs the U.S. Department of Interior to review current bans on offshore energy development in the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. The move comes after Alaska's Congressional delegation successfully advocated for keeping the nation's offshore energy options on the table.

Although an encouraging development, it is important to note that for Alaskans, today's executive order simply treats the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) as it was being treated only months ago. During that time, federal agencies did a great deal of scientific and procedural work to set up a five-year leasing plan for the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. Today's order isn't a major change from what had been the norm, but is merely an effort to erase what was a drastic and sudden decision made in the final days of the Obama administration, one done without consultation with the State of Alaska or the Native communities on the North Slope.

Today's executive action merely keeps our nation's energy options open. Projections suggest that a generation from today, the majority of our nation's energy needs will still be met by traditional fuel sources. The Arctic OCS has incredible resource potential, with more than 30 billion barrels of recoverable oil and more than 40 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Given our nation's significant energy needs, carefully considering the resource potential of the Arctic OCS is in the best interests of this nation, from an environmental, economic, and geopolitical standpoint. Alaska remains a vital and necessary component of our nation's goal of becoming truly energy independent.

It is important to appreciate that much work remains to be done. It will be years before any lease sales are held in the Arctic OCS arena. Federal agencies, which have already conducted decades or research in the region, will continue to work diligently to ensure the path forward is environmentally viable. AOGA President and CEO Kara Moriarty said, "We are encouraged and pleased that options for Alaska's future became more robust and optimistic today, but also recognize that today is but one step, especially when oil and gas projects in Alaska's Arctic offshore require long lead times and take many years to come into 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), or twitter (@AOGA).
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