

## Alaska Oil and Gas Association

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### **AOGA: ANWR decision is wrong, offensive**

Jan. 25, 2015 ANCHORAGE- The Alaska Oil and Gas Association (AOGA) strongly condemns President Obama's attempt to lock up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) from future development.

"It is offensive to put the remaining 8 percent of ANWR off limits when more than 90 percent is already permanently protected," said Kara Moriarty, AOGA president and CEO. "No one is better equipped to drill safely in Alaska's Arctic better than Alaskans. We've proved over the course of decades that Arctic oil can be produced safely and responsibly for the benefit of all Alaskans. Development on the North Slope has made Alaska a wealthy and prosperous state, even leading to the creation of the Permanent Fund Dividend. We believe future generations of Alaskans deserve that same opportunity, but the president's decision makes that possibility less likely."

Even without considering the most recent proposal of ANWR's coastal region, it is important to note that more than half (approximately 52 percent) of all U.S. lands designated as "wilderness" are in Alaska. If Congress were to approve this proposal, Alaska would have approximately 60 million acres designated as "wilderness", *more than the other 49 states combined*.

This represents the latest attempt by the Obama Administration to further limit Alaskans ability to chart its own course. For example, recent Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings have resulted in over 250 million acres of Alaskan lands and waters being designated as critical habitat. Obama's decision to prohibit any future oil and gas activities in Bristol Bay took another 32 million acres off the table. All told, in less than a decade, the federal government has taken hundreds of millions of acres of land away from Alaskans.

At issue is not just where and in what manner Alaskan's resources should be developed; rather, the fundamental question remains: shouldn't Alaskans be allowed to make these decisions for themselves? The Obama administration will attempt to describe these actions as being aimed at protection, but most Alaskans recognize these actions for what they are: a direct challenge to Alaska's sovereignty.

The Alaska Oil & Gas Association is a private, business trade association. Its 14 member companies represent the majority of oil and gas exploration, production, transportation, refining and marketing activities in Alaska. More information about the organization is available at [www.aoga.org](http://www.aoga.org).

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