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AOGA: President Obama’s decision to remove the Arctic from offshore oil and gas lease sales is a slap in Alaskans’ face

ANCHORAGE – Nov. 18, 2016- The Alaska Oil and Gas Association’s (AOGA) President & CEO Kara Moriarty released the following statement today in response to the Department of the Interior’s decision to remove Arctic leases from the five-year leasing plan:

“The Obama administration’s decision to close America’s Arctic to energy development is a slap in Alaskans’ face. A diverse group of Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, labor unions, industry leaders, and everyday Alaskans have repeatedly advocated for keeping America’s energy options open. Instead, the president has caved to extreme environmental activists, who openly call for our abundant natural resources to remain in the ground.

The Arctic offshore still represents the largest and best opportunity available to this nation to bolster its economy and energy independence. With more than 27 billion barrels of oil in the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), development represents the next generation of Alaska’s oil and gas industry.

Today’s move will undoubtedly be cheered by activists as “saving” the Arctic, when nothing could be further from the truth– the Arctic is already being developed by other countries. For our president to willingly surrender the United States’ opportunity to become energy independent is a loss for Americans, who will continue to rely on foreign energy sources.”

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), and twitter (@AOGA).

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