



July 16, 2026

Haley Paine, Acting Director
Division of Oil and Gas Permitting Section
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1100
Anchorage, AK 99501
Submitted via e-mail: dog.permitting@alaska.gov

Dear Ms. Paine,

The Alaska Chamber appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)'s proposed land lease for STAK Energy's Project Aaka.

The Alaska Chamber is the state's largest statewide business advocacy organization. Our mission is to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members and represents businesses of all sizes and industries from across the state, representing 58,000 Alaskan workers and \$4.6 billion in wages.

The Chamber supports the Department's preliminary Best Interest Finding and encourages DNR to finalize its determination and approve the land lease for Project Aaka.

Project Aaka represents exactly the type of innovative, private-sector investment Alaska should encourage. It puts North Slope stranded natural gas, a resource that has remained largely undeveloped for decades, to productive use while creating new economic opportunities without relying on taxpayer funding or placing additional costs on Alaska utility ratepayers. The project is entirely privately financed, generates its own power on-site, and consumes that power on-site, meaning it will not compete with Alaska households or businesses for electricity or increase pressure on the Railbelt electrical grid.

We appreciate the thorough process DNR has followed throughout this lease application. The Department conducted a competitive solicitation, received no competing proposals, and issued a preliminary Best Interest Finding concluding that the project represents a productive use of state land consistent with Alaska's constitutional mandate to maximize the benefit of its natural resources. The process has been transparent, governed by Alaska law, and provided ample opportunity for public review. Finalizing the lease is the appropriate next step.

From an economic standpoint, Project Aaka offers substantial benefits for Alaska. Construction is expected to support more than 1,500 workers during peak activity and create at least 60 permanent, year-round positions once operational. Equally important, the project will generate significant work for Alaska's engineering, construction, transportation, logistics, and support service industries that have built decades of expertise operating on the North Slope. STAK Energy has also expressed a strong commitment to utilizing Alaska-based contractors and suppliers wherever practical, ensuring that project spending circulates throughout Alaska's economy.

We appreciate STAK Energy's commitment to responsible environmental stewardship. The project will undergo all required federal, state, and local permitting before construction proceeds and incorporates proven Arctic engineering practices that have successfully supported North Slope infrastructure for



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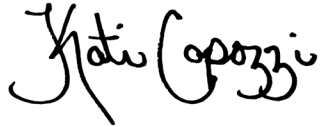
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decades. Planned use of closed-loop cooling systems, careful thermal modeling, and site-specific design demonstrates a commitment to minimizing impacts on permafrost, wildlife, tundra, and water resources while maintaining safe and reliable operations.

Alaska competes every day with other states and countries for private investment. Demonstrating that our permitting and land management processes are predictable, transparent, and grounded in sound policy sends an important signal that Alaska remains open for responsible development and innovation. For these reasons, the Alaska Chamber respectfully urges the Department of Natural Resources to finalize its Best Interest Finding and approve the proposed land lease for STAK Energy's Project Aaka.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work managing Alaska's public lands for the maximum benefit of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kati Capozzi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "K" and "C".

Kati Capozzi
President and CEO