



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALASKA:

The Government of the United States respectfully requests that the Alaska Legislature promptly enact legislation to facilitate construction and operation of the Alaska Gas Pipeline to connect Prudhoe Bay on Alaska's North Slope through Canada to our national pipeline system. The people of the United States, including Alaska, will benefit greatly from the expanded access to natural gas that the Pipeline will provide. The Pipeline will generate jobs, State and local revenue, and a stronger economy for the people of Alaska.

In his National Energy Policy approved on May 16, 2001, the President stated that "America needs the energy that Alaska's North Slope natural gas can provide." To help meet that need, the President directed the Secretaries of Energy and State, with the Secretary of the Interior and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission "to work closely with Canada, the State of Alaska, and all other interested parties to expedite the construction of a pipeline to deliver natural gas to the lower 48 states." The Federal Government has continued to implement that Presidential directive.

The Alaska Gas Pipeline is a complex project that requires timely, coordinated and effective action by a number of Federal Government and Alaska State Government entities over a significant period of time before pipeline construction even begins. Currently, the Alaska Legislature is the governmental entity that holds the fate of the Alaska Gas Pipeline in its hands. As you consider the revenue and other provisions of proposed legislation, and the application of the Alaska Stranded Gas Development Act and other Alaska law to the Pipeline project, please consider the needs of the Nation as a whole along with the important interests of Alaska. The Federal Government believes that it is in the interests of both Alaska and the Nation to construct and operate the Alaska Gas Pipeline.

The Federal Government recognizes and respects the premier role of the Alaska Legislature in safeguarding the interests of the people of Alaska as it carries out Alaska's constitutional policy to encourage "development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest." You have it in your hands to help ensure that the Alaska Gas Pipeline ultimately furnishes dependable, affordable, and environmentally-sound energy for America's future.

Your early action is necessary to move the process forward. Enactment of legislation now will enable the Federal agencies to commence immediately a process to comply with existing Federal laws to initiate construction of the Alaska Gas Pipeline and to work with our Canadian counterparts to secure their cooperation to complete this pipeline through their nation. Time is of the essence in this process. Thank you for your cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dick Cheney".

June 27, 2006