



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
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March 10, 2023

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: The Willow Master Development Plan Alternative E

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the 775,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write to share the IBEW's strong support for the Willow Master Development Plan (Willow MPD) in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska and request that your administration approve Alternative E of the Willow MPD. The Willow Project will provide significant employment opportunities for IBEW members and apprentices in Alaska while enhancing the nation's energy security and benefiting the state's economy and local residents.

The IBEW is a labor organization representing approximately 400,000 members working in the construction industry. IBEW members play a vital role in the future economic prosperity of their communities. IBEW local unions, like Local Union 1547 in Alaska, are leaders in the nation in recruiting and training the highly skilled workforce necessary for responsible energy development supported by good, union jobs.

If the Willow MPD is approved, the Willow Project will be an important economic driver for Alaska, requiring approximately 9 million work hours – over 2,500 construction jobs – for IBEW members, apprentices, and members of other construction trades. The project, once completed, will further require hundreds of permanent positions that will be filled by IBEW members. The developer of the Willow Project, ConocoPhillips, plans to invest upwards of \$8 billion towards the project.

The economic impacts of the Willow Project will be far-reaching and will drive Alaska's economy forward. The good wages and benefits generated by the project will sustain a generation of middle-class families and put money back into the economy. Good, union jobs create an economic ripple effect, as union members' income contributes directly or indirectly to state and local payroll taxes, increased spending in local businesses and local construction vendors, investments in job training, increased local charitable contributions, and increased tourism. According to the Bureau of Land Management's estimates, approval of the project will generate as much as \$17 billion in new revenues for the federal government, the State of Alaska, and communities in the North Slope.

The Willow Project will tap into reserves of an estimated 600 million barrels of oil and, at peak production, produce 180,000 barrels a day. While the IBEW supports your administration's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the reality is that the



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nation's energy needs cannot be met exclusively by newer energy sources like wind and solar. Petroleum-based products like gasoline, jet fuel and plastics, will be with us for decades to come. In order to meet energy demand, it is far better to develop a safe, reliable supply of petroleum domestically than to replace it with dirtier and less reliable foreign sources.

Approval of the Willow MPD has the full support of the bipartisan Alaska Congressional Delegation, the Alaska State Legislature, the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Alaska AFL-CIO, North America's Building Trades Unions, and international unions, including the IBEW.

I respectfully request that your administration do not delay in giving final approval of the Willow MPD Alternative E, which will allow three drill sites, the minimum for the Willow Project to remain economically viable.

On behalf of the IBEW, I thank you for your leadership and for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth W. Cooper
International President

KWC:efw

Copy to Steve Ricchetti, Assistant to the President and Counselor to the President
John Podesta, Senior Advisor for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation
Anita Dunn, Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor
Ali Zaidi, Special Assistant to the President and National Climate Advisor
Mary Frances Repko, Staff Director, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Erika Dinkel-Smith, Special Assistant to the President, Labor Engagement
Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior
Tommy Beaudreau, Deputy Secretary of the Interior
Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior
Laura Daniel-Davis, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior

