NATIVE VILLAGE OF AMBLER
Kuuvanmiit Inupait Nunaaqqiat Ivisaappaanii
Ambler Traditional Council Ivisaappaanii Aippaanisun Quakliqpiat Atangitch

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Secretary Doug Burgum
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

January 21, 2026

RE: LEASING IN OFFSHORE WATERS IN NORTHWEST ALASKA

Dear Secretary Burgum,

The Native Village of Ambler is a federally recognized Tribe under Pub. L. 103-454; 108 Stat. 4791, 4792; 89 Fed. Reg. (89 FR 99899 (December 11, 2024)). The Ambler Traditional Council is the governing body for the Native Village of Ambler, duly elected under the Constitution of the Ambler (Ivisaappaat) Tribe. The Ambler Traditional Council recognizes the inherent sovereignty and responsibility to our people and to protect and preserve the quality of the health, safety and environment for the continuation of the culture and traditions of our tribal members.

Since time immemorial, our Tribe and all Alaska Native people in the Kobuk River watershed and surrounding areas of Northwest Alaska have depended on healthy land, healthy water, healthy oceans, and healthy fish and wildlife resources, which are integral to our traditional indigenous way of life. The Kuuvanmiut Tribal Conservation District, recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, includes lands and waters all the way to the western coast of Alaska, and the adjacent ocean, because resources in these regions have sustained our people for generations.

We are writing to share the need to preserve the health and subsistence resources upon which our Tribe depends and to express our deep concerns about inclusion of the Hope Basin, the Norton Basin and the Chukchi Sea in the new 5 Year Plan for federal offshore oil and gas leasing. These waters provide some of our most important natural resources and are vital to our survival. The inherent risks and pollution from new oil platforms and pipelines are a threat to our Tribe and our livelihoods. These sales would adversely affect ice seal migration, subsistence harvests of seal, crab, salmon, sii-fish, beluga, bowhead whales and all sea-mammals. It has the possibility of causing major die-offs throughout our region and in the rest of Alaska.

We ask you to remove leases in Hope Basin, the Norton Basin and the Chukchi Sea from this offshore plan to prevent disasters that would devastate our Tribe and all Northwest Alaska communities. Please remove them from this 5 Year Plan and any future federal offshore development plans.

Respectfully,

Martha L. Wood

Martha Wood
First Chief
On behalf of the Native Village of Ambler Traditional Council