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February 14, 2002

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Albert Barros
 Community Liaison
 Minerals Management Service
 Alaska OCS Region
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 Anchorage, AK 99508

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Dear Mr. Barros,

The Homer Chamber of Commerce is in support of the effort of the Minerals Management Service to gather information regarding the Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Cook Inlet oil and gas lease sales.

The Chamber encourages the Service to do all that is possible in their efforts to develop oil and gas in lower Cook Inlet while taking into consideration any environmental or aesthetic impact this may have on the community. Homer has only three major assets to sell right now: fish, beauty and a pristine, natural environment. It would only be in the best interest of the community to increase our economic base by adding yet more diversity to our business community.

Oil and gas exploration and development in lower Cook Inlet could bring professional level, high-end employment opportunities to the greater Homer area, and help existing businesses grow or stabilize. Transportation and services could be greatly enhanced with such exploration, and our local tax revenue could increase significantly.

Environmental and aesthetic questions and issues are obvious concerns for all who live and work in the area, and in particular those of the Visitor and Commercial Fishing Industry. Any change or impact to the view, fishing, or ecology of Kachemak Bay and lower Cook Inlet could have a negative impact on the Visitor Industry which relies on a beautiful view and healthy bay as its number one asset. Any change to the ecology could negatively effect the fish stock supports the Commercial Fishing Industry. It would be expected that any oil or gas development would use appropriate technology, resources and training to eliminate risk to the natural environment and minimize aesthetic impact on the community. Creative thinking, state of the art engineering and equipment and strict lease management are just a few of the items needed to blend the goals and resources of all industry together at the end of the road while protecting the quality of life in Homer.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the intentions of the Minerals Management Service and support this effort to expand the economic base for the community while protecting Homer's primary asset. I look forward to communicating with you and learning more as this process continues.

Sincerely,

Michael Dye
 Michael Dye
 President

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 THE PAST,
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