May 1, 2018

GMT2 SEIS Comments
Attn: Stephanie Rice
222 West 7th Avenue #13
Anchorage, Alaska 995013

Re: Support Alternative A of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Alpine Satellite Development Plan for the proposed Greater Mooses Tooth 2 project

Dear Ms. Rice;

The Alaska Chamber supports Alternative A of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Alpine Satellite Development Plan (ASDP) for the proposed Greater Mooses Tooth 2 (GMT2) development project within the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A). Alternative A of the DSEIS, which consists of an 8.2-mile gravel road and pipeline connecting GMT2 pad with the existing infrastructure. This will allow Conoco Phillips to operate safely, and in an environmentally responsible manner.

The Alaska Chamber is a non-profit founded in 1953 working to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. The Chamber is the voice of small and large businesses representing hundreds of employers and local chamber across Alaska. Our member companies employ over 100,000 hard-working Alaskans. We have long supported resource development that is both done in a responsible manner and brings economic opportunities to Alaska and its residents.

The purpose of the creation of NPR-A, was develop American’s energy resources. The Development of the proposed $1.5 billion project would provide benefits to the local and state economies through local hire for jobs created during construction and operations, tax revenues, royalties, and new resources to help meet domestic energy demand. Not to mention the Development will also provide significant economic benefits to Alaska Natives on the North Slope as well as throughout the state through direct payment of royalties and revenue sharing among the Alaska Native Corporations.

The currently proposed GMT2 project (formerly CD7) is essentially the same as that approved for permitting in 2004 with changes that reduce the overall footprint. These changes include removing the drill site location from the Colville River Special Area, and reducing the road and pipeline length, thereby reducing the amount of fill and associated impacts to wetlands. Relocation of the drill site also mitigates the potential for impacts on wildlife.

As proposed in Alternative A, GMT2 will include a gravel road connection to existing infrastructure at GMT1 facilities. The road is necessary to ensure that the operator can respond to the unlikely event of an environmental or safety issue in an adequate and timely manner. Alternative A, has been modified to reduce environmental impacts and lower the overall
footprint. It requires less air traffic close to the village of Nuiqsut. The project has also incorporated pull-outs to support safety and local subsistence access on the GMT2 road. Alternative A would also pose the fewest impacts to subsistence.

The Alaska Chamber urges your support for responsible oil and gas development in Alaska, and Alternative A would be the best alternative that meets the purpose and need for the GMT2 project.

Sincerely,

Curtis W. Thayer
President and CEO