

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE CRAIG JOHNSON HOUSE DISTRICT 28

August 25, 2010

Mr. Pat Pourchot
Special Assistant for Alaska Affairs
Department of the Interior | Office of the Secretary
1689 C Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Pat:

In accordance with the telephonic discussion you had with my staff today, I respectfully request that you confirm in writing that I and other members of the Alaska Legislature will not be allowed to officially participate in the panel discussions at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEM) forums on Alaska Outer Continental Shelf issues tomorrow at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage.

To say the least, I am disappointed that there will be no opportunity for any representatives of Alaska's legislature to officially participate in those forums. As you know from personal experience, our legislature plays an active and important role in State resource management. To fail to provide a single legislative seat on any of the panels, when BOEM is discussing one of the most important issues facing Alaska's future, seems not only shortsighted but inappropriate – especially in light of the fact that these forums are the first and only public discussion of these topics by the Obama Administration in Alaska.

I respectfully request an explanation of why no state legislative seats were provided.

In addition, I hereby formally request that Secretary Salazar and the Obama Administration provide additional opportunities for public and legislative comment, and additional public hearings, on the issues to be covered at the forums tomorrow prior to any final determination by the Administration regarding suspensions of drilling and exploration on Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Johnson".

Craig W. Johnson
Co-Chair, House Resources Committee

cc: The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior