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COMMITTEE ON

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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February 22, 2018

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Dear Industry Leaders:

On February 1, 2018, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development released its 2016 Nonresidents Working in Alaska report. I follow these annual reports closely as part of my ongoing efforts to ensure that Alaskans benefit to the greatest extent possible from energy development in our state. This includes maintaining a strong Alaska workforce.

The 2016 report raises a number of concerns, primarily the large overall decrease in the number of workers in the oil and gas industry and the percentage of the total workforce that are nonresidents. In 2016, the total number of workers fell by 3,070, with resident workers accounting for roughly 70 percent of this loss. Meanwhile, the percentage of nonresident workers in the oil and gas industry has increased to 37.1 percent from a low of 28.1 percent in 2009.

Consistent with my previous requests over the past years, I ask that you provide up-to-date information on your companies' employment of Alaska residents, including data for your contractors and subcontractors. In addition, I ask that you provide any information or suggestions that your companies, contractors, and subcontractors may have on in-state workforce development and training. I have taken full advantage of the opportunity to visit the many career and technical colleges and workforce training programs across the state. I have seen first-hand the many talented and skilled Alaskans we train each year. What more can we do to build a well-qualified Alaska workforce for the oil and gas industry?

I understand the difficult times that the industry has faced given relatively low oil prices and other economic challenges. I appreciate all of the efforts that your companies are making to maintain and grow investment in Alaska, and recognize the need for the industry to operate as efficiently as possible. As part of that, and particularly as we move closer to new opportunities on federal lands and waters, I continue to believe that hiring Alaskans and encouraging contractors and subcontractors to hire Alaskans is in all of our best interests.

The oil and gas industry makes a significant contribution to our state's economy and I appreciate your commitment to ensuring that Alaskans benefit from development. I look forward to receiving your updated Alaska hire information and your suggestions for employing more Alaskans throughout the industry.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator