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JULY 2020 | AKRDC.ORG

#### 150% to 300%+ TAX INCREASE



## Ballot Measure 1 increases oil taxes too far, too fast and puts the economy at risk

Alaska's economy depends on a healthy oil industry to fund essential public services, the Permanent Fund, and critical infrastructure. Yet sponsors of Ballot Measure 1 acknowledge this measure would increase taxes by at least \$1 billion and independent economic analysis says it represents a 300 percent-plus increase at \$60 per barrel oil prices and a total government take of just over 70 percent.

A tax increase of this magnitude will make Alaska less competitive. A less competitive Alaska will impact investment and could eliminate or postpone promising oil development projects, ultimately resulting in fewer jobs for Alaskans, less oil down the pipeline, and less long-term revenue for the state.

Under the current tax structure, Alaska's oil production is finally stabilizing after years of sharp decline, and new development projects will help bring Alaska out of recession. However, if the ballot measure passes, it would pose a severe threat to new investment and new jobs, especially in these economic times. The ballot measure would be a short-term tax gain at the cost of long-term oil production and state revenue.

Alaska today has the highest unemployment rate in the nation. Following the oil price crash a few years ago, the oil industry lost several thousand jobs and had just begun to turn the corner toward recovery when the pandemic hit.

"With at least one-quarter of all Alaska jobs tied to the oil and gas industry, there couldn't be a worse time to enact such a punishing and massive tax increase on our largest incomeproducing industry to the State treasury," said RDC executive director Marleanna Hall. The ballot measure sponsors falsely claim that a tax hike of the magnitude proposed on over 80 percent of the production will not hurt economic growth or good-paying jobs that help drive the local and state economy.

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## Pebble to issue annual dividend to Bristol Bay residents

1975

2020

Pebble Partnership CEO Tom Collier announced in June that the company has created the Pebble Performance Dividend (PPD) to distribute a percentage of the revenue generated from the operation of a mine at Pebble to year-round residents of Bristol Bay.

"When we rolled out our new, smaller mine plan in 2017, I made a commitment to find a way to share the opportunity Pebble represents with the residents of Bristol Bay. While not everyone will want to work at the mine, this ensures a direct way for everyone to participate," Collier said. "Whether a resident supports the project, opposes it, or is neutral, anyone who is a yearround resident can participate," Collier added. "However, year-round residents who want to share in this opportunity must register their interest."

PLP created a web portal for Bristol Bay residents to register. Once operational and profitable, the PPD will distribute three percent of the net profits to registered residents.

As the first several years of development will not yield profits, PLP will ensure a minimum distribution by contributing \$3 million annually for distribution to all registered participants. Thus, if 3,000 residents register, the PPD will distribute \$1000 to qualified participants once construction begins. Residency, governance and distribution will be Continued to page 4

# ARE adapting to these challenging times

Alaska Resource Education (ARE) has been working hard to help teachers and students during these challenging times.

ARE has been hosting virtual credit teacher training through the Zoom platform. In addition, ARE has been offering live virtual science lessons for students and has put together some "how-to" videos for teachers and parents.

ARE has also offered an online high

school curriculum, creating a portal and associated lessons for students to work through. ARE has opened the portal to the public so that it is easier to use.

"We have activities and lessons associated with this such as the exploration scavenger hunt Exploring Alaska," said ARE executive director Ella Ede. A full teacher workbook with associated standards has also been developed. ARE has launched a virtual science fair focused on natural resources with project presentations.

An online renewable energy Alaska unit for high school students has also been provided. Zoom meetings with guest speakers, video presentations, and a selfdirected project has also been developed by ARE. Visit akresource.org for more information.



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A complete list of the Board of Directors is available at akrdc.org.

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#### **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

is an Alaskan, non-profit, membership-funded organization comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse industries together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector and grow Alaska through responsible resource development.

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## HATS OFF TO RDC'S LONGEST SERVING EMPLOYEE A Message from the Executive Director

Hats off to RDC's longest serving employee

Carl Portman first came to RDC April 1st, 1981 as a communications specialist and ascended to the position of Deputy Director in 1998. Before joining RDC, he worked four years at the Alaska Hospital and Medical Center in public affairs. Prior to that, he worked on the trans-Alaska pipeline. For nearly four decades he was responsible for public policy analysis and preparing public testimony and comments on a wide variety of natural resource issues.

During his tenure, he wrote and published over 300 Resource Review newsletters, prepared countless action alerts aimed at generating comments on specific issues and wrote hundreds of letters in support of responsible resource development.

Year after year, Carl was the lead coordinator of RDC's highly successful fall conference on Alaska's resources. His commitment to Alaska and RDC was just as important as his commitment to family and friends.

Carl is best described as a creative, collaborative, effective communicator, and generous educator. As his friends, neighbors, and colleagues can attest, he has worked tirelessly to push back against federal overreach and misuse of federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Alaska National Interest Lands Act.

A life-long Alaska resident, Carl is a graduate of the University of Alaska Fairbanks with a degree in Journalism. He was raised on a homestead near Fairbanks and resides in Anchorage.

Carl is a man of strong Christian faith and has been an active member of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seaton Parish in Anchorage for more than 40 years. For years he has helped lead youth group expeditions, performed in the choir, and participated in bible studies. He has mentored young professionals throughout their careers and has volunteered in community projects like Habitat for Humanity.

Carl is also an avid outdoorsman. He has spent more days hiking, skiing, and rafting than just about anyone. His love of the outdoors supports three of his other passions – dogs, photography, and meteorology. He is notoriously generous with his four-legged companions, he has few rivals when it comes to slide shows (both in the quality of the photographs and the duration of the programs), and he is a prolific chronicler of the weather on the upper-Hillside.

It is with great loss, but with much appreciation that after 39 years of service and thousands of outstanding hours of work he has performed to support economic growth in our state, we say, "see you later," to Carl.

Happy retirement!

## BALLOT MEASURE 1 IS BAD FOR JOBS AND PUTS OUR ECONOMY AT RISK



Paid for by OneALASKA - Vote No on 1, Anchorage, AK. Chantal Walsh, chair, approved thi message. Top three contributors are ExxonMobil, Anchorage, Alaska, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Aschorage, Alaska, and Hillorg, Anchorage, Alaska, ConocoPhillips Alaska,

#### Ballot Measure 1 puts production, jobs, economy at risk

#### Continued from page 1

"No industry in Alaska can sustain the level of tax increases outlined in the ballot measure without it impacting future investment, production, and jobs," Hall said.

Every direct Alaska oil industry job creates 15 more jobs in the state. A healthy oil industry funds public services, the Permanent Fund, and infrastructure. The workforce employed by the industry impacts all parts of the Alaskan economy.

Ballot Measure 1 was drafted by a small, private group with no public input, hearings, or scrutiny by independent economic experts or the Alaska State Legislature. Hall said this is troubling since changing state oil tax law requires careful study, because the impacts are significant and long-term.

In its analysis of the measure, the Alaska Department of Law stated, "the vagueness of the language and the lack of definitions would lead to numerous implementation and potential constitutional concerns postenactment."

RDC Executive Committee member Kara Moriarty emphasized, "Alaska's current oil tax structure is working for Alaskans

#### Bristol Bay residents must register for Pebble dividend Continued from page 1

#### overseen by an advisory board comprised of well-known Alaskans John Shively and Willie Hensley, along with residents from the region.

Residents who register via the web portal before July 31st will be eligible for a drawing for an early annual Pebble Performance Dividend beginning this year and payable through the start of construction. Five early dividend winners will be chosen from the group of eligible participants registered by July 31st. The web portal will remain open for registration until August 31st.

"Developing a mine at Pebble will provide jobs, economic activity, local tax revenue and infrastructure. Today we are adding one more way residents of the region can directly benefit from Pebble via our revenue sharing plan," said Collier.

Federal permitting is nearing conclusion with a decision on the project expected this summer.



because it is producing more oil and more revenue for the state than was projected under the tax structure it replaced." She explained that prior to the most recent collapse in oil prices, production was approximately 75,000 barrels per day higher than projected, and oil tax revenues were \$1.5 billion above what was expected since SB 21 passed.

Moriarty, who serves as President and

CEO of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, pointed out that North Slope producers have paid state taxes every year since oil was produced.

Since 2014, Alaska received over \$8.7 billion in taxes and \$13.8 billion in total state revenue from oil companies, which accounts for approximately 90 percent of Alaska's tax revenue from business.

#### Usibelli to build first-ever wood kiln in Fairbanks, acquires Superior Pellet Fuels

Aurora Energy Solutions, LLC, a new company owned by Usibelli Investments, announced in June that it has acquired the assets of Superior Pellet Fuels (SPF) and is constructing a state-of-the-art wood kiln. The kiln will produce clean-burning dry firewood that will help the greater Fairbanks area achieve required reductions in PM 2.5 emissions.

"We are excited to bring forward a meaningful solution that will help improve the air quality in the Fairbanks North Star Borough," said Joe Usibelli Jr., Managing Member of Usibelli Investments.

In 2018, a task force called the Fairbanks Air Quality Stakeholders Group, considered possible remedies to help bring the Fairbanks area into compliance with requirements of the federal Clean Air Act. One proposed solution, which received unanimous support from the stakeholders, was to bring a wood kiln to Fairbanks that would allow the production of clean-burning dry firewood.

"This new facility will allow for the

production of kiln-dried firewood that is far more efficient as a home heating resource, while also greatly reducing the emissions from wood burning," said Usibelli. "Superior Pellet Fuels has offered premium wood pellets and compressed logs to the community for the last 10 years. The combination of kiln-dried firewood, along with the reliable biomass products from SPF, provides residents and businesses with several cleaner-burning heating options that are locally sourced, and manufactured right here in Alaska."

Rob Brown, President of Aurora Energy Solutions, stated that the energy for the kiln would come from the Aurora Energy coalfired power plant in Fairbanks. "Aurora Energy district heat will flow into the kiln and dry the wood," said Brown. "This is a win-win situation. Our wood kiln can operate with zero new emissions, and the dry wood product we produce can have a dramatic impact on lowering emissions and will improve air quality in the community."



With the pandemic threatening our lives and our livelihood, oil prices at rock bottom, the loss of the visitor industry for the season and commercial seafood at risk, this is a terrible time to raise oil production taxes by as much as 300 percent.

Ballot Measure 1 is a vicious and dangerous attack on the future of our state. It sends the message that "If you invest here, we will increase your taxes every time we run out of money."

People say this is an oil company issue. It's not. It's an Alaska issue. Oil companies can take their money and invest it anywhere in the world — and they will.

But where do the rest of us go? This is where we have our homes, families, jobs and businesses. This is where we plan a future for our kids and grand kids.

Where do we go when the pipeline shuts down, the jobs dry up, home values collapse, and there is no one left to support our tax base, our charities, and our economic way of life?

Other industries, like mining, tourism, seafood, and the many service businesses, will ask the question: who's next? Why would they want to invest here? Why would anyone invest in a state that is trying to kill itself?

Proponents of Ballot Measure 1 imply that the oil industry pays little or no taxes. That's wrong. In the past five years, according to information provided in a prior article by oil economist Roger Marks, the oil industry paid an average of almost \$3 billion per year in taxes and royalties and kept about \$1 billion. That's a government take of 74 percent of the pre-tax value. The Lower 48 government take was about 64 percent. Increased oil production is the best solution to Alaska's budget problems. The oil industry has plans to spend \$24 billion over the next 10 years, which could boost our oil production by several hundred thousand barrels per day. This investment would stop – and oil production would de-cline to dangerous levels – if we overtax this vital industry.

Why risk driving away what a 2019 study by the McDowell Group noted is a \$5 billion annual pay-roll, 77,000 jobs, \$4 billion in annual payments to Alaska businesses? This money runs throughout our economy and supports so many charities and events that provide needed services to so many in our state.

We are extremely concerned that if Ballot Measure 1 were to pass, it would begin an economic death spiral for Alaska. Our economy is fragile, and this initiative could tip us over the edge.

They call this the "Fair Share Act:" Is it FAIR that you will no longer have a job? Is it FAIR that your house will be worth less? Is it FAIR that your children will have little to no opportunity to stay and work in Alaska if this initiative passes? Is it fair that there is no industry left to pay for government services, our schools, and support our charities?

A better name would be "The Job Killer Act of 2020."

We have a choice: More oil or more taxes, a strong economy or recession, Jobs or no jobs. This is not the time to destroy what we have left in Alaska.

Jim Jansen and Joe Schierhorn are members of the OneALASKA campaign and the KEEP Alaska Competitive Coalition. Jansen is the Chairman of the Lynden Companies. Schierhorn is the President and CEO of Northrim Bank.

## RDC board of directors "gather" at 45th Annual Meeting

The Resource Development Council's statewide Board of Directors met in Anchorage June 17th for its 45th Annual Meeting to elect new board members and officers. The Board also received updates on the state's oil and gas, mining, fishing, tourism, and forest industries.

Jeanine St. John, Lynden, Inc., was re-elected as President and Scott Jepsen, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc., was re-elected as Senior Vice President. Mike Satre, Hecla Greens Creek Mine, will serve a second term as Vice President and Lori Nelson, Hilcorp Alaska LLC, was re-elected Secretary. Lance Miller, NANA Regional Corporation, will continue to serve as Treasurer and Eric Fjelstad, Perkins Coie LLP, will continue as Past President.

Elected to the statewide Board were Steve Cooper, ENSTAR Natural Gas Company; Michelle Egan, Alyeska Pipeline



From left to right are Eric Fjelstad, Lori Nelson, Scott Jepsen, Jeanine St. John, Mike Satre, and Lance Miller. View full list at akrdc.org/board-of-directors.

Service Company; Dan Graham, Donlin Gold; Dave Karp, Saltchuk; Erik Kenning, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation; Jamie Marunde, Doyon Limited, and Doug Smith, Bering Straits Native Corporation.

Elected to the Executive Committee were Joe Balash, Oil Search Alaska and Thomas Mack, Aleut Corporation.

## **JULY 2020 RESOURCE REVIEW**



#### Carl Portman: A legacy to admire

By Rebecca Koonce and Marleanna Hall

Interviewing Carl, a humble, honest, and sometimes shy man did not prove easy. We gave him the difficult questions and the softballs. Read what he had to say.

In a few words, describe past directors or presidents: Paula: Passionate about work – very fair to every employee. She worked hard. Becky: Energizer bunny – she loved to have fun. Debbie: Newshound – a political animal. Ken: Very compassionate – soft spoken but a hard worker.

Tadd: Very easy going – everyone loves Tadd. Jason: Like a Labrador puppy – bouncing off the walls.

Rick: Very athletic #biketoworkday

"There was not a single President I didn't like."

How long did you think you would originally work at RDC? Five years. I thought I would go to ARCO, but I liked RDC.

What accomplishments are you most proud of?

Opening ANWR – we worked really hard on that over the years. I felt like we really were part of what helped turn the tide in D.C.

The conference – building it in to a major event with the two-day agenda and participation. I learned you have to have a sponsorship for everything. The new mines during my tenure – all five large producing metal mines.

What is the best part of being a part of RDC for almost 40 years?

The people. The board. The staff. The membership. This is my extended family. The community outreach trips. The legislative trips to Juneau. All of these have created really strong life-long bonds with members and staff.

What is the one thing you most want people to associate with you? Alaska Resources conference and RDC's credibility. When we circulate an action alert, people trust us. We are the organization people go to.

What is the most interesting thing or place you have seen since you came to RDC? Landing on an oil platform in Cook Inlet is one of the coolest experiences. My first visit ever to Washington D.C. was in September 2001. It was Alaska Airlines inaugural flight, shortly before 9/11.

What is the most frightening thing you have done at RDC? By far, the most frightening thing was appearing as a guest with Paula on Herb Shaindlin's KFQD show. He was sharp, and he would just tear his guests apart. I was so nervous. When the show was over, he said, "I support your agenda."

Would you do it again today? Probably. You have to take the difficult with the good.



**Congratulations Carl!** 

#### October 2013

Any advice for those who follow in your footsteps?

This job will take a lot of patience. With a lot of issues it is like taking two steps forward and one step back. You need to have tolerance for the various viewpoints. Whether it is with the board members or others at a public meeting. You have to be willing to work with everyone. Everyone.

If you could have had any other profession what would it have been? Why wasn't it your first choice?

Meteorology. I'm just not very good at math and you had to have that, and well as hard core science and technical classes.

If you could trade jobs with someone for the day, what would you do? #lifegoals **Captain of a Caribbean cruise ship.** 

#### April 2011



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# **INDUSTRY DIGEST**

#### Alaska LNG Project receives federal approval

The Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC) received authorization from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to construct and operate the Alaska LNG Project.

Governor Mike Dunleavy said, "federal authorization is a key step in determining if Alaska LNG is competitive and economically beneficial for Alaska. I commend the AGDC team for their diligence. The ongoing project economic review and discussions with potential partners will determine the next steps for this project."

In a combined statement, Alaska's Congressional Delegation added, "We commend the continued work by both FERC and AGDC to advance the Alaska LNG project to this key point. The certificate issued by FERC is the culmination of years of work and will be a major asset for both investment in Alaska and our nation's long-term energy security. Development of our vast natural gas resources will further expand North Slope opportunities and could be a game-changer for our state economy."

AGDC President Frank Richards said, "FERC's authorization validates that the Alaska LNG Project can be safely built and operated, delivering numerous potential benefits with manageable environmental impacts. This approval, a major milestone in the development of the project, signifies the completion of a rigorous and comprehensive evaluation that has engaged environmental and energy experts at dozens of federal and state regulatory agencies."

Richards said obtaining FERC approval significantly de-risks the project execution with defined environmental stipulations.

The Alaska LNG Project consists of a Gas Treatment Plant on Alaska's North Slope, an 800-mile pipeline, and an LNG facility in Nikiski. The May FERC announcement culminates six years of public input, engineering, science-based environmental research, and cultural data.

#### Pebble one step closer to a final permitting decision

A road and pipelines around the north shore of Iliamna Lake is the most environmentally sound route to access the proposed Pebble copper-gold-molybdenum-silver mine in Southwest Alaska, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

The Corps' assessment is outlined in Alternative 3 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Pebble. The 85-mile northern transportation corridor would connect the Pebble deposit site to a deep-water port on Cook Inlet and bypass the need for a ferry to transport concentrates across Iliamna Lake.

The Corps' determination is in response to concerns expressed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service about transporting supplies and metal concentrates produced by the proposed mine at Pebble.

Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd., the parent company of the

Pebble Partnership, said the all-road alternative "presents several compelling benefits over the lake ferry options."

Northern Dynasty said there are clear operational benefits associated with a single mode transportation system versus multimode, and it's confident the northern corridor can be built and operated safely in partnership with local villages and landowners.

The all-land route would not only eliminate the need for an icebreaking ferry crossing the lake, it includes pipelines to transport copper-gold and molybdenum concentrate to the port, which would significantly reduce the number of trucks traveling the road each year.

Pebble Partnership CEO Tom Collier said the announcement of a preferred alternative brings the project a step closer to a final permitting decision this summer.

"From the beginning, we have been clear that developing an environmental impact statement for a project like Pebble is an iterative process with no predetermined outcomes," he said. "The Corps' selection of the northern transportation corridor as the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative clearly shows this to be the case, and demonstrates the permitting process working as designed to incorporate the views of expert regulatory agencies and members of the public to identify the best development option."

#### Growing demand for minerals to support a green economy

A new World Bank report finds that the production of minerals, such as graphite, lithium, and cobalt could increase by nearly 500 percent by 2050 to meet the growing demand for clean energy technologies. It estimates that over 3 billion tons of minerals and metals will be needed to deploy wind, solar and geothermal power, as well as energy storage, required for achieving a below 2°C future.

The report, "Minerals for Climate Action: The Mineral Intensity of the Clean Energy Transition" also finds that even though clean energy technologies will require more minerals, the carbon footprint of their production – from extraction to end-use – will account for only six percent of the greenhouse gas emissions generated by fossil fuel technologies. The report underscores the critical role that recycling and reuse of minerals will play in meeting increasing mineral demand. It also notes that even if recycling rates for minerals like copper and aluminum are scaled up by 100 percent, recycling and reuse would still not be enough to meet the demand for renewable energy technologies, and energy storage.

The report reveals some minerals, like copper and molybdenum, will be used in a range of technologies, while others, such as graphite and lithium, may be needed for just one technology: battery storage. This means that any changes in clean energy technology deployments could have significant consequences on demand for certain minerals.

The report builds upon the World Bank's 2017 report "The Growing Role of Minerals and Metals for a Low-Carbon Future."



# **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

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