



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Citizens' Advisory Commission
on Federal Areas**

101 Airport Road
Palmer, AK 99645
Phone: 907.269.3645
dnr.cacfa@alaska.gov

October 6, 2015

Jorjena Daly, Project Manager
BLM Anchorage Field Office
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, AK 99507

Re: Response to Comments on the Preliminary Reports Prepared for the Bering Sea-Western Interior Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

Ms. Daly:

Thank you for responding to our comments on the preliminary reports. I write only to make one rather significant clarification of a very understandable (and not uncommon) area of confusion.

Both the Commission's and the State's comments were identified in your response summary as representing the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), likely due to both letters being submitted on DNR letterhead. However, the Commission is housed within DNR by statute for administrative purposes. Any comments received from the Commission do not represent the views, positions or recommendations of the State of Alaska or of DNR. Samantha Carroll, while also a DNR employee, is the statewide coordinator for BLM planning. As noted in her letter, her comments represent the consolidated views of state agencies.

The Commission operates independently in the exercise of its duties and responsibilities. Our obligation in commenting is to represent the diversity of users and uses in Alaska, as informed through our public meetings, working relationships, comments and insights from citizens and user groups, discussions with state and federal officials, the expertise of our commissioners and staff, and many other sources. In drafting comments, we neither seek nor purport to convey any official views which may be attributed to a state agency or entity other than the Commission.

I sincerely apologize for the confusion and hope this letter – in addition to the amendments to our official letterhead – will help clarify things going forward. Please correct your response summary document accordingly to ensure that comments from the Commission and the State are appropriately considered and to eliminate confusion with the public.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Sara Taylor".

Sara Taylor
Executive Director

cc: Samantha Carroll, BLM Coordinator, State of Alaska