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*** For Immediate Release ***

A joint statement from the Inupiat Community of the North Slope (ICAS), North Slope Borough, and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) on the Bureau of Land Management's Willow Project Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

"The elected regional Inupiat leadership of the North Slope encourages the Biden administration to move forward with final approval for Alaska's Willow Project, based on the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) released today by the Bureau of Land Management. As the final SEIS signals, advancing Willow is critical for domestic energy independence, job security for Alaskans and the right of Alaska Natives to choose their own path.

"While the final SEIS is an important procedural step, we, the regional elected leadership of the North Slope, continue to call on the Biden administration to issue its final approval for Willow. Moving ahead with Willow would mean economic certainty for our communities. Any move by the Biden administration to restrict Willow beyond the threshold for economic viability, including additional deferrals, would imperil not just the project, but the future of our region.

"Despite living in the most extreme climate in the United States, the Inupiat have thrived for more than 10,000 years, while staying true to our cultural values and traditional subsistence way of living. We know our lands and our communities better than anyone, and we know that resource development and our subsistence way of life are not mutually exclusive. Contrary to the coordinated attacks of outside activists, we are partnered with ConocoPhillips in the design of the Willow Project to protect our ancestral lands and local animal migratory routes, and we have diligently used all official channels with the Interior Department to communicate and advocate for this critical economic stimulus. The new economic activity initiated by Willow will strengthen our region's economic foundation and make possible the continuation of our Inupiaq culture and way of life.

"We thank the bipartisan group of leaders, including Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, Rep. Mary Peltola, Gov. Mike Dunleavy, labor leaders and Alaska Native leaders, that have worked with us to advocate their strong support for Willow. We look forward to the Biden administration's support and approval for advancing Willow."

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Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS) – ICAS is the regional Alaska Native tribal government for the North Slope region, governed by the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 and the ICAS Constitution. ICAS represents and is selected by the Iñupiat people of the region.

North Slope Borough (Borough) – The Borough is the regional municipal government for the northernmost region of Alaska and the largest municipality in the United States by size. The Borough’s jurisdiction encompasses the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. Approximately three-quarters of the Borough’s nearly 10,000 residents are Iñupiat.

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) – ASRC is one of twelve land-owning regional Alaska Native Regional Corporations established pursuant to the enactment of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. ASRC is owned by and represents the business interests of its approximately 13,000 Iñupiat shareholders. ASRC owns nearly 5 million acres of Alaska Native land on Alaska’s North Slope. ASRC’s Corporate headquarters are located in Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska.