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My name is Carey Hall and I live and work in Alaska. I am a truck driver by occupation and work on the Ice Roads of Alaska hauling freight to and from the North Slope of Alaska. I am an employee of Carlile Transportation; an Alaskan owned and based trucking company. We have more than 600 employees and have been in business for 30 years. We move freight all over the United States and specialize in movement of goods and equipment specifically for the oil and gas industry. I am not an oil and gas expert and won't act like I am. I am a truck driver. Truck drivers literally and figuratively "drive" our nation's economy. I see the flow of goods and the demand for products, services and workers that this industry creates.

I have been asked to be here to give you a glimpse of what an Ice Road Trucker working in the oil patch industry sees and experiences. I would like to explain why I believe further Oil and Gas development in Alaska is so crucial to my well-being, to my family and to our nation.

The oil and gas industry represents the cornerstone of our business. It is not only important to contractors and vendors such as a trucking company but to all our citizens in the State of Alaska and as a nation. It produces jobs, lots of jobs, we need jobs!

Prudhoe Bay has operated above and beyond what initial predictions indicated. More recoverable oil and a longer duration period of recovering it, due to technology and efficiency has continued to keep these fields productive. It has been a huge "gold mine" for jobs, tax relief, and economic development in Alaska and nearly every other state in our nation as well. The need for contracts of supplies and services purchased by the Alaskan oil industry has without a doubt touched every single corner of our nation. Every state in the nation has been drawn on to provide goods and services for production in Alaska for over 40 years. There has been a benefit economically to every state. I know, because I work it.

Incredible lessons of environmental stewardship and safety have also been realized. The ice-roads are built, heavily utilized and then disappear. One would never even know they were ever there. The creation of this infrastructure has allowed new fields to be developed and ultimately supplying our nation with oil sustaining above and beyond initial predictions in the early 70's.

However, the end is in sight, we are seeing less and less oil in the pipeline. The finds are thinning out. We don't have the freight loads we once had and what we are hauling to the oil patch is for repair and maintenance. New development must be brought on-line elsewhere.

ANWR is crucial to keeping oil in our pipeline. Without ANWR we have the threat of our nation's pipelines – The Trans Alaska Pipeline shutting down. The pipeline needs to run at a certain output in order for it to even operate. Finds such as ANWR must be brought to fruition. This one spot in Alaska has more oil potential than any other spot in North America. Importing oil to the United States is the single largest contributor to our national debt. Opening ANWR is the right step in responsible management of our national debt. No money will come from the Federal Government, yet the rewards will be plentiful. Our nation needs our energy and we have the ability to make that happen.

The History Channel has done Alaska a huge favor. The show is not about me, it is not about the company I work for. It is about a remote and rigorous and regulated industry, supplying our nation with a needed commodity – OIL! That is who developed the Ice Roads – that is who pays to have them built and that is who uses them. The result of this is my job and other just like it. Good – long term – high paying jobs. America needs more of these and we can have them.

I am not a brain surgeon or a rocket scientist, but I can tell you one thing I do know – It is with vigilance and dedication and that oil companies keep working to produce safe practices, regulating the way they work with the natural resources and the environment. It's about jobs – our economy needs them! It's about becoming less dependent on foreign oil and using our own interests to survive. Our nation needs American energy and we have it. Federal land is available in Alaska and environmental safeguards are in place more now than ever before. Beginning with the permitting process and going thru to the final design of a well rig footprint. Which by the way - that old rocker style drill we sometimes see pictured – that is not Alaska. That is old school and new age drilling has a much smaller footprint and very technically advanced leading to cutting edge innovation, efficiency and safety.

I am confident in saying that Alaskan Legislators, the Alaskan Congressional delegation, and every single Alaskan Governor has supported opening ANWR every single year since the debate began. People care about their own backyard more than they care about their neighbors – that is why Alaskans support ANWR opening – it is our backyard. We know that ANWR will produce tens of thousands of long term jobs; we know that infrastructure will be built; we know that tanker ships will be needed, pipe will be manufactured, and services will be contracted. It happened in Alaska before and has benefited our entire nation for decades. ANWR is not a bandaid for our debt and economy; it is a long term sustainable solution. ANWR is about careful planning, environmental stewardship, and looking to the future. Alaskans know this will be done right and overwhelmingly support this cause.

Thank you for inviting me to speak.

