

**NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
AND NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
JOINT RESOLUTION C-2023**

**A JOINT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TIMELY
COMPLETION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR'S SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL
REVIEW PROCESS FOR RESPONSIBLE NATURAL
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE AMBLER ACCESS
PROJECT.**

WHEREAS: the North Slope Borough and Northwest Arctic Borough are the two northernmost home-rule regional governments in Alaska, with planning and permitting authority for their respective regions; and

WHEREAS: the North Slope Borough and Northwest Arctic Borough share a border, traditional culture and values, subsistence resources, and economic development; and

WHEREAS: the North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough support responsible resource exploration, development, and extraction in their regions and believe responsible development can go hand-in-hand with protection of subsistence culture and resources; and

WHEREAS: the Ambler Mining District holds extensive mineral resources, including copper, silver, gold, lead, and zinc, and the area has been characterized as one of the world's largest undeveloped copper-zinc mineral belts; and

WHEREAS: these minerals are crucial considering recently forecasted shortfalls in global copper supply essential for the manufacture of electric vehicles, renewable energy sources, and defense systems; and

WHEREAS: the Ambler Access Project ("the Project") would facilitate industrial surface transportation access to the currently inaccessible mineral deposits in the Ambler Mining District, which is essential to ensuring the economic stability of the region and Alaska; and

WHEREAS: in Alaska alone, the construction portion of the Project has the potential to facilitate responsible economic development for operations and maintenance and the potential for over 8,700 direct, indirect, and induced construction and operation jobs, and nearly \$700 million in annual wages, in

addition to an annual average of 360 direct jobs over the Project period, and up to 81 direct annual jobs for operations and maintenance over the life of the Project; and

WHEREAS: the Project included a comprehensive multi-year public review and consultation process leading to the final Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) issued in 2020; and

WHEREAS: Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) and National Park Service (“NPS”) jointly evaluated the Project’s impact on subsistence pursuant to Section 810 of ANILCA, and developed a Programmatic Agreement and Cultural Resources Management Plan pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (“NHPA”), as part of an extensive administrative process culminating in issuance of a Joint Record of Decision (“JROD”) authorizing the Project in July 2020; and


WHEREAS: in September 2022, BLM initiated a 45-day public scoping process for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Project to provide time for additional tribal consultation and consideration of subsistence concerns; and


WHEREAS: the North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough are committed to responsible natural resource development that economically benefits our communities and residents while protecting both our subsistence resources and food security; and


WHEREAS: the North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough support BLM’s thorough review of the Project’s impact to subsistence with meaningful tribal consultation with regional and local Tribes to promote responsible natural resource development.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough support timely completion of the Department of the Interior’s supplemental environmental review process for the Ambler Access Project in order to allow meaningful tribal consultation, for important baseline scientific and geotechnical work to proceed, and to promote responsible natural resource development that benefits our people for the long term.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF April 2023.


Nathan Hadley, Jr.
NAB Assembly President


Vernon A. Edwardson
NSB Assembly President


Dickie Moto, Sr.
NAB Mayor


Harry K. Brower, Jr.
NSB Mayor

SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS 7th DAY OF April 2023.


Shayne Schaeffer
NAB Clerk


Elaine Solomon
NSB Clerk

ATTEST:



ATTEST: