



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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Dear Senator Begich:

Thank you for your letter of September 14 to President Obama regarding ways to advance construction of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Project. We have been asked to respond on the President's behalf.

We share your interest regarding the exploration and production of Alaskan natural gas and the linkage of Alaskan gas with the North American market. With respect to facilitating construction and operation of the Pipeline Project, the State Department stands ready to engage the Government of Canada in a joint review of our bilateral treaties affecting pipeline construction, and to work with them in facilitating the expeditious processing of all requisite Canadian permits. We also plan to discuss this issue with our Canadian counterparts during our annual bilateral Energy Consultative Mechanism to be held in December this year.

We hope this information is helpful in addressing your concerns. Please do not hesitate to us further on this or any other matter of concern to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard R. Verma".

Richard R. Verma
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable
Mark Begich,
United States Senate.