

December 10, 2010

DCC Gas Legal Fund

The Denali Citizens Council has been actively engaged in educating citizens about the risks of natural gas development since the development was first proposed in the Healy area in 2004. Reports from across the country indicate that gas development raises substantial concerns for private property owners, residents, and wild lands that include air and water quality deterioration, noise, conflicts with surface property use, well water disruption, habitat loss, and others. With the approval of the Final Best Interest Finding for the Healy Basin Gas Only Exploration License, these risks of gas development are on their way to the Denali Borough. The DCC Board has determined that it is in the interest of our members and supporters to obtain legal assistance to address complex gas-related issues.

The Denali Citizens Council has therefore established a Gas Legal Fund. Initially, this fund will be used to pursue an appeal of the state's decision on the Best Interest Finding to Alaska Superior Court, which we hope will support our contention that the Best Interest Finding reached the wrong conclusion. However, in the future the fund may be used to obtain legal assistance when reviewing permits or plans of operation, challenging compliance with permit conditions or other requirements, developing resources for landowners to utilize when negotiating surface use agreements, or engaging in other similar activities.

Our ability to pursue legal action related to gas exploration and development depends entirely on our ability to raise funds and secure pro bono legal assistance, both of which are difficult. DCC can make no pledge about our ability to follow through on the Superior Court appeal or on any other legal action, and we cannot refund money if the appeal fails, is settled, or otherwise discontinued. However we do pledge that to the best of our ability we will continue to pursue the objectives we have articulated to the state. Legal action is only one means by which we are pursuing those objectives. All money donated to this fund will be utilized for legal activity only. In the event that gas exploration and development halts entirely and removes all possible need for the fund, and the fund still has money, the DCC board will consult with its members and contributors to determine what to do with the balance.

We must be clear that the DCC board is the entity that ultimately determines the use of donated funds. The board will use its best discretion to determine when legal assistance is needed and when or if court action should begin or cease. Because there are differences in the objectives of some of our members and supporters, we cannot promise that any decision made by the DCC board will be consistent with any particular donor's objective.

We do believe that DCC offers the best chance for collective action to protect local interests.

DCC Board

Nancy Bale
Anne Beaulaurier
Charlie Loeb

Nan Eagleson
Hannah Ragland
Cass Ray
Jared Zimmerman

Julia Potter, Community Organizer

Our general goals are:

- 1) No exploration or drilling on private property in the Denali Borough with reasonable setbacks from private property lines.
- 2) No exploration or drilling west of the Nenana River, with a particular concern for lands important for wildlife habitat or recreation.
- 3) Specific and enforceable noise standards and other mitigation requirements.
- 4) Open and fair public decision-making process.

You can donate to the fund either by check or on-line credit card via Paypal. Send checks made to DCC to:

Denali Citizens Council
Gas Legal Fund
PO Box 78
Denali Park, AK 99755

To donate on-line, visit our website at www.denalicitizens.org. Follow the “Donate Now” link at the bottom of the homepage, which will take you to Paypal. Enter an amount to donate. **Before confirming the donation**, click on the link for sending a message to the merchant and enter “Gas Legal Fund” on the screen provided so the funds will be attributed appropriately.

Our initial fundraising goal for the fund is \$20,000 raised through donations, pro-bono work, and partnerships.

Thank you!

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