Lisa Rae Stevenson
P.O. Box 1222
Chickaloon, AK 99674

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JOINT PIPELINE OFFICE
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April 19, 2006

State of Alaska
Pipeline Coordinator's Office
411 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: ANGDA
Commissioner's Analysis and Proposed Decision
Conditional Right-of-Way Lease, ADL 229297

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I received your public notice that ANGDA's proposed pipeline route has tentatively been approved to cross DNR lands. After much thought, I am writing to you today to submit my formal comments regarding your analysis and proposed decision.

I would like to begin by reflecting on the motto printed on the bottom of your letterhead: "Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans." Keeping in mind your present stance of approving the proposed ROW, I can see where "Develop for Present Alaskans" fits. I do not, however, accept that "Conserve and Enhance for Future Alaskans" is an apparent part of your vision.

Considering that much of the ANGDA pipeline does not follow existing corridors of travel, I am deeply troubled by the opportunities that will not be available to our next generations, should this route be followed. Creating unrestricted easy access through the areas between Moose Creek and Eureka will

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undoubtedly have lasting and irreversible effects on wildlife and habitat.

I understand that DNR lands are designated multiple use. But building a road through the backcountry, with no intent of managing users, can only lead to major degradation and abuse. Why develop one nonrenewable resource at the expense of many renewable ones?

There are many flaws with this governmentally subsidized plan of action: there is no "big" gasline to supply this spur; there are no committed industrial end-users; and ANGDA itself is not financially viable. When this project is economically sound, then private industry will build it. I will not support Alaska dollars creating more boondoggles, nor can I theorize "if we build it, the gas will come..."

The bottom line is that there are alternatives with fewer negative consequences than the proposed route. Using an existing highway or utility easement, rather than needlessly opening up the Talkeetna Mountains, would make a lot of sense... and building a bullet line from Fairbanks would make a lot more.

When Mr. Heinze was asked why the pipeline couldn't be built along the Matanuska River, he replied "it would be bad pipelining." So how can following the length of Boulder Creek, much of Caribou Creek and most of Squaw Creek be any better-especially with the wealth of fault zones they contain? (And if the gasline can be suspended at Moose Creek, then why not at Caribou Creek?)

Just this week we have heard of a corrosion-caused leak in a gasline on the Slope. How much worse would this danger be in earthquake country near residential areas? The fact is that these pipelines are built with a short timeframe for usage. And so it should be for a nonrenewable resource. But I am begging you to consider the long-term effects on the land and the wildlife

populations, as well as on the present and future residents of this State.

Please do not ruin these fantastic areas to provide a quick fix to a big problem. If the government is going to subsidize Anchorage energy, then perhaps it should do it in a way that could be a lasting solution: wind turbines, solar power, hydroelectrics, etc. Manage our lands to enhance them for future generations!

In closing, if you must approve this route, please mandate that ANGDA make it difficult for motorized users to access the spurline trail. Multiple use does not have to mean unmanaged, easy access. One look at Jim Creek will show you this is wise.

Finally, I ask that you think very carefully about the duty we have to our grandchildren's grandchildren- and to err on the side of caution. It is our responsibility to be good stewards of the land. I live in this area because of the bounty of the land: moose and bears, berries and fish, wild beauty and solitude- please allow those who come after us to share in this way of life. Please don't open the backcountry to ANGDA.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on such an important issue.

Sincerely,

Lisa Rae Stevenson