

**Implementation Plan – Strategic Recommendations | Updated August 18, 2014**

*The state of Alaska should:*

**Strategic Recommendation #1 – Address the infrastructure gap in Alaska’s Arctic**

1 (a): Foster more reliable and affordable approaches for adaptive solutions regarding in-home water, sanitation, and other essential rural infrastructure.

1 (b): Conduct a comprehensive Arctic region economic and infrastructure assessment and planning process that integrates local, regional, state and federal planning efforts.

1 (c) Develop the capacity for strategic planning of port development, such as through an Alaska port authority, which could also liaise with AIDEA to facilitate public-private partnerships and investment.

1 (d) Add within the Governor’s office an Arctic maritime specialist.

1 (e) Improve and support, invest in and complete communications and mapping, navigational infrastructure, hydrographic and bathymetry.

1 (f) Evaluate and respond to risks from climate change related to erosion to community infrastructure and services.

1 (g) Expand development of appropriately integrated systems to monitor and communicate Arctic marine information.

**Strategic Recommendation #2 – Strengthen an Alaska Arctic science and research agenda**

2 (a): Support planning efforts that empower local stakeholders to identify and provide input on regional priorities that support and mitigate the risk from human activity and assess cumulative impacts thereof.

2 (b) Ensure state funding to, and partnership with, the University of Alaska for Arctic research that aligns with state priorities and leverages the University’s exceptional facilities and academic capacity.

2 (c) Support partnerships with the university and the private sector for research and development of new energy technologies to reduce power and heating costs in rural Alaskan communities.

2 (d) Support expanding participation within the NSSI, thereby extending the initiative’s geographical scope without compromising its mission or effectiveness.

2 (e) Strengthen efforts to incorporate traditional and local knowledge into research and science as well as management decisions.

**Strategic Recommendation #3 – Increase response capacity as it relates to a more active Arctic maritime**

3 (a): Facilitate and secure public and private investment in support of critical aviation and maritime response infrastructure and economic development, to include consideration of direct state funding and/or public-private partnerships that address development of communications, a deep draft port(s), icebreaker(s), logistics hubs, and a WX C-130 size aircraft hangar(s).

3 (b) Expand and support the Department of Environmental Conservation’s effort to involve communities and stakeholders through Subarea Planning and provide local response training, to maintain local spill response equipment to ensure timely, effective, and safe response.

3 (c) Strengthen partnerships with Oil Spill Response Organizations (OSROs) to develop expertise in open water, broken ice, near shore, and sensitive area protection, and be able to meet contingency plan requirements and operate effectively in the Arctic.

3 (d) Ensure the Oil and Hazardous Substance Release Prevention and Response Account is sustainable and available to communities.

**Strategic Recommendation #4 – Promote the sustainable development – economic development that responds to culture, society and the environment – of Alaska’s Arctic resources**

4 (a): Develop and support education of the public and outreach efforts that enhance the understanding of the conservation of Arctic biodiversity and sustainable use of biological resources.

4 (b): Develop a mechanism for State revenue sharing from resource extraction for impacted communities, where lacking, for immediate impacts as well as needs beyond the life of non-renewable resources.

4 (c) Foster and strengthen international partnerships with other Arctic Nations, establishing bilateral partnerships with, in particular, Canada and Russia, to address emerging challenges in the Arctic.

4 (e) Promote the food security of the people and communities.

4 (f) Lead collaborative efforts between multiple levels of government to achieve greater access, coordination and predictable regulatory standards to ensure permitting certainty and robust environmental protection.

4 (g) Develop workforce development program to prepare Arctic residents to participate in all aspects and phases of Arctic development.

4 (h) Update hydrocarbon and mineral resource mapping and estimates in the Alaskan Arctic.