

subject to a determination by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that such additional funds are necessary.

CHAPTER 12

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS ACT

SEC. 1201. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

This division may be cited as the “Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Hurricane Disasters Assistance Act, 2005”.

DIVISION C—ALASKA NATURAL GAS PIPELINE

Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act.

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

15 USC 720 note.

This division may be cited as the “Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act”.

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

15 USC 720.

In this division:

(1) **ALASKA NATURAL GAS.**—The term “Alaska natural gas” means natural gas derived from the area of the State of Alaska lying north of 64 degrees north latitude.

(2) **ALASKA NATURAL GAS TRANSPORTATION PROJECT.**—The term “Alaska natural gas transportation project” means any natural gas pipeline system that carries Alaska natural gas to the border between Alaska and Canada (including related facilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission) that is authorized under—

- (A) the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 719 et seq.); or
- (B) section 103.

(3) **ALASKA NATURAL GAS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.**—The term “Alaska natural gas transportation system” means the Alaska natural gas transportation project authorized under the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 719 et seq.) and designated and described in section 2 of the President’s decision.

(4) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(5) **FEDERAL COORDINATOR.**—The term “Federal Coordinator” means the head of the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects established by section 106(a).

(6) **PRESIDENT’S DECISION.**—The term “President’s decision” means the decision and report to Congress on the Alaska natural gas transportation system—

- (A) issued by the President on September 22, 1977, in accordance with section 7 of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 719e); and
- (B) approved by Public Law 95-158 (15 U.S.C. 719f note; 91 Stat. 1268).

(7) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy.

(8) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Alaska.

15 USC 720a.

SEC. 103. ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY.

(a) **AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION.**—Notwithstanding the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 719 et seq.), the Commission may, in accordance with section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717f(c)), consider and act on an application for the issuance of a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the construction and operation of an Alaska natural gas transportation project other than the Alaska natural gas transportation system.

(b) **ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall issue a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the construction and operation of an Alaska natural gas transportation project under this section if the applicant has satisfied the requirements of section 7(e) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717f(e)).

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In considering an application under this section, the Commission shall presume that—

(A) a public need exists to construct and operate the proposed Alaska natural gas transportation project; and

(B) sufficient downstream capacity will exist to transport the Alaska natural gas moving through the project to markets in the contiguous United States.

Deadline.

(c) **EXPEDITED APPROVAL PROCESS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of issuance of the final environmental impact statement under section 104 for an Alaska natural gas transportation project, the Commission shall issue a final order granting or denying any application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the project under section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717f(c)) and this section.

(d) **PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN PIPELINE ROUTE.**—No license, permit, lease, right-of-way, authorization, or other approval required under Federal law for the construction of any pipeline to transport natural gas from land within the Prudhoe Bay oil and gas lease area may be granted for any pipeline that follows a route that—

(1) traverses land beneath navigable waters (as defined in section 2 of the Submerged Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1301)) beneath, or the adjacent shoreline of, the Beaufort Sea; and

(2) enters Canada at any point north of 68 degrees north latitude.

(e) **OPEN SEASON.**—

Deadline.
Regulations.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue regulations governing the conduct of open seasons for Alaska natural gas transportation projects (including procedures for the allocation of capacity).

(2) **REGULATIONS.**—The regulations referred to in paragraph (1) shall—

(A) include the criteria for and timing of any open seasons;

(B) promote competition in the exploration, development, and production of Alaska natural gas; and

(C) for any open season for capacity exceeding the initial capacity, provide the opportunity for the transportation of natural gas other than from the Prudhoe Bay and Point Thomson units.

(3) **APPLICABILITY.**—Except in a case in which an expansion is ordered in accordance with section 105, initial or expansion capacity on any Alaska natural gas transportation project shall be allocated in accordance with procedures to be established by the Commission in regulations issued under paragraph (1).

(f) **PROJECTS IN THE CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An application for additional or expanded pipeline facilities that may be required to transport Alaska natural gas from Canada to markets in the contiguous United States may be made in accordance with the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717a et seq.).

(2) **EXPANSION.**—To the extent that a pipeline facility described in paragraph (1) includes the expansion of any facility constructed in accordance with the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 719 et seq.), that Act shall continue to apply.

(g) **STUDY OF IN-STATE NEEDS.**—The holder of the certificate of public convenience and necessity issued, modified, or amended by the Commission for an Alaska natural gas transportation project shall demonstrate that the holder has conducted a study of Alaska in-State needs, including tie-in points along the Alaska natural gas transportation project for in-State access.

(h) **ALASKA ROYALTY GAS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Commission, on a request by the State and after a hearing, may provide for reasonable access to the Alaska natural gas transportation project by the State (or State designee) for the transportation of royalty gas of the State for the purpose of meeting local consumption needs within the State.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—The rates of shippers of subscribed capacity on an Alaska natural gas transportation project described in paragraph (1), as in effect as of the date on which access under that paragraph is granted, shall not be increased as a result of such access.

(i) **REGULATIONS.**—The Commission may issue such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 104. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.

15 USC 720b.

(a) **COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA.**—The issuance of a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the construction and operation of any Alaska natural gas transportation project under section 103 shall be treated as a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

(b) **DESIGNATION OF LEAD AGENCY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission—

(A) shall be the lead agency for purposes of complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(B) shall be responsible for preparing the environmental impact statement required by section 102(2)(c) of

that Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)) with respect to an Alaska natural gas transportation project under section 103.

(2) **CONSOLIDATION OF STATEMENTS.**—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Commission shall prepare a single environmental impact statement, which shall consolidate the environmental reviews of all Federal agencies considering any aspect of the Alaska natural gas transportation project covered by the environmental impact statement.

(c) **OTHER AGENCIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Federal agency considering an aspect of the construction and operation of an Alaska natural gas transportation project under section 103 shall—

(A) cooperate with the Commission; and

(B) comply with deadlines established by the Commission in the preparation of the environmental impact statement under this section.

(2) **SATISFACTION OF NEPA REQUIREMENTS.**—The environmental impact statement prepared under this section shall be adopted by each Federal agency described in paragraph (1) in satisfaction of the responsibilities of the Federal agency under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) with respect to the Alaska natural gas transportation project covered by the environmental impact statement.

Deadlines.

(d) **EXPEDITED PROCESS.**—The Commission shall—

(1) not later than 1 year after the Commission determines that the application under section 103 with respect to an Alaska natural gas transportation project is complete, issue a draft environmental impact statement under this section; and

(2) not later than 180 days after the date of issuance of the draft environmental impact statement, issue a final environmental impact statement, unless the Commission for good cause determines that additional time is needed.

15 USC 720c.

SEC. 105. PIPELINE EXPANSION.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—With respect to any Alaska natural gas transportation project, on a request by 1 or more persons and after giving notice and an opportunity for a hearing, the Commission may order the expansion of the Alaska natural gas project if the Commission determines that such an expansion is required by the present and future public convenience and necessity.

(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMISSION.**—Before ordering an expansion under subsection (a), the Commission shall—

(1) approve or establish rates for the expansion service that are designed to ensure the recovery, on an incremental or rolled-in basis, of the cost associated with the expansion (including a reasonable rate of return on investment);

(2) ensure that the rates do not require existing shippers on the Alaska natural gas transportation project to subsidize expansion shippers;

(3) find that a proposed shipper will comply with, and the proposed expansion and the expansion of service will be undertaken and implemented based on, terms and conditions consistent with the tariff of the Alaska natural gas transportation project in effect as of the date of the expansion;

(4) find that the proposed facilities will not adversely affect the financial or economic viability of the Alaska natural gas transportation project;

(5) find that the proposed facilities will not adversely affect the overall operations of the Alaska natural gas transportation project;

(6) find that the proposed facilities will not diminish the contract rights of existing shippers to previously subscribed certificated capacity;

(7) ensure that all necessary environmental reviews have been completed; and

(8) find that adequate downstream facilities exist or are expected to exist to deliver incremental Alaska natural gas to market.

(c) **REQUIREMENT FOR A FIRM TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT.**—Any order of the Commission issued in accordance with this section shall be void unless the person requesting the order executes a firm transportation agreement with the Alaska natural gas transportation project within such reasonable period of time as the order may specify.

(d) **LIMITATION.**—Nothing in this section expands or otherwise affects any authority of the Commission with respect to any natural gas pipeline located outside the State.

(e) **REGULATIONS.**—The Commission may issue such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 106. FEDERAL COORDINATOR.

15 USC 720d.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established, as an independent office in the executive branch, the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects.

(b) **FEDERAL COORDINATOR.**—

(1) **APPOINTMENT.**—The Office shall be headed by a Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to serve a term to last until 1 year following the completion of the project referred to in section 103.

President.
Congress.

(2) **COMPENSATION.**—The Federal Coordinator shall be compensated at the rate prescribed for level III of the Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5314).

(c) **DUTIES.**—The Federal Coordinator shall be responsible for—

(1) coordinating the expeditious discharge of all activities by Federal agencies with respect to an Alaska natural gas transportation project; and

(2) ensuring the compliance of Federal agencies with the provisions of this division.

(d) **REVIEWS AND ACTIONS OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—

(1) **EXPEDITED REVIEWS AND ACTIONS.**—All reviews conducted and actions taken by any Federal agency relating to an Alaska natural gas transportation project authorized under this section shall be expedited, in a manner consistent with completion of the necessary reviews and approvals by the deadlines under this division.

(2) **PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—No Federal agency may include in any certificate, right-of-way, permit, lease, or other authorization issued to an Alaska natural gas transportation project any term or condition that may be

permitted, but is not required, by any applicable law if the Federal Coordinator determines that the term or condition would prevent or impair in any significant respect the expeditious construction and operation, or an expansion, of the Alaska natural gas transportation project.

(3) PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN ACTIONS.—Unless required by law, no Federal agency shall add to, amend, or abrogate any certificate, right-of-way, permit, lease, or other authorization issued to an Alaska natural gas transportation project if the Federal Coordinator determines that the action would prevent or impair in any significant respect the expeditious construction and operation, or an expansion, of the Alaska natural gas transportation project.

(4) LIMITATION.—The Federal Coordinator shall not have authority to—

(A) override—

(i) the implementation or enforcement of regulations issued by the Commission under section 103; or

(ii) an order by the Commission to expand the project under section 105; or

(B) impose any terms, conditions, or requirements in addition to those imposed by the Commission or any agency with respect to construction and operation, or an expansion of, the project.

(e) STATE COORDINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Coordinator and the State shall enter into a joint surveillance and monitoring agreement similar to the agreement in effect during construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, to be approved by the President and the Governor of the State, for the purpose of monitoring the construction of the Alaska natural gas transportation project.

(2) PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY.—With respect to an Alaska natural gas transportation project—

(A) the Federal Government shall have primary surveillance and monitoring responsibility in areas where the Alaska natural gas transportation project crosses Federal land or private land; and

(B) the State government shall have primary surveillance and monitoring responsibility in areas where the Alaska natural gas transportation project crosses State land.

(f) TRANSFER OF FEDERAL INSPECTOR FUNCTIONS AND AUTHORITY.—On appointment of the Federal Coordinator by the President, all of the functions and authority of the Office of Federal Inspector of Construction for the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System vested in the Secretary under section 3012(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (15 U.S.C. 719e note; Public Law 102-486), including all functions and authority described and enumerated in the Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1979 (44 Fed. Reg. 33663), Executive Order No. 12142 of June 21, 1979 (44 Fed. Reg. 36927), and section 5 of the President's decision, shall be transferred to the Federal Coordinator.

(g) TEMPORARY AUTHORITY.—The functions, authorities, duties, and responsibilities of the Federal Coordinator shall be vested in the Secretary until the later of the appointment of the Federal

Expiration date.

Coordinator by the President, or 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 107. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

15 USC 720e.

(a) **EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION.**—Except for review by the Supreme Court on writ of certiorari, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction to determine—

(1) the validity of any final order or action (including a failure to act) of any Federal agency or officer under this division;

(2) the constitutionality of any provision of this division, or any decision made or action taken under this division; or

(3) the adequacy of any environmental impact statement prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to any action under this division.

(b) **DEADLINE FOR FILING CLAIM.**—A claim arising under this division may be brought not later than 60 days after the date of the decision or action giving rise to the claim.

(c) **EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.**—The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit shall set any action brought under subsection (a) for expedited consideration, taking into account the national interest of enhancing national energy security by providing access to the significant gas reserves in Alaska needed to meet the anticipated demand for natural gas.

(d) **AMENDMENT OF THE ALASKA NATURAL GAS TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 1976.**—Section 10(c) of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 719h) is amended—

(1) by striking “(c)(1) A claim” and inserting the following:

“(c) **JURISDICTION.**—

“(1) **SPECIAL COURTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A claim”;

(2) by striking “Such court shall have” and inserting the following:

“(B) **EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION.**—The Special Court shall have”;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) **EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.**—The Special Court shall set any action brought under this section for expedited consideration, taking into account the national interest described in section 2.”; and

(4) in paragraph (3), by striking “(3) The enactment” and inserting the following:

“(3) **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS.**—The enactment”.

SEC. 108. STATE JURISDICTION OVER IN-STATE DELIVERY OF NATURAL GAS.

15 USC 720f.

(a) **LOCAL DISTRIBUTION.**—Any facility receiving natural gas from an Alaska natural gas transportation project for delivery to consumers within the State—

(1) shall be deemed to be a local distribution facility within the meaning of section 1(b) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717(b)); and

(2) shall not be subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

(b) **ADDITIONAL PIPELINES.**—Except as provided in section 103(d), nothing in this division shall preclude or otherwise affect a future natural gas pipeline that may be constructed to deliver natural gas to Fairbanks, Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Valley, or the Kenai peninsula or Valdez or any other site in the State for consumption within or distribution outside the State.

(c) **RATE COORDINATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In accordance with the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717a et seq.), the Commission shall establish rates for the transportation of natural gas on any Alaska natural gas transportation project.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Commission, in accordance with section 17(b) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717p(b)), shall consult with the State regarding rates (including rate settlements) applicable to natural gas transported on and delivered from the Alaska natural gas transportation project for use within the State.

15 USC 720g.

Deadline.

SEC. 109. STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) **REQUIREMENT OF STUDY.**—If no application for the issuance of a certificate or amended certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the construction and operation of an Alaska natural gas transportation project has been filed with the Commission by the date that is 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a study of alternative approaches to the construction and operation of such an Alaska natural gas transportation project.

(b) **SCOPE OF STUDY.**—The study under subsection (a) shall take into consideration the feasibility of—

(1) establishing a Federal Government corporation to construct an Alaska natural gas transportation project; and

(2) securing alternative means of providing Federal financing and ownership (including alternative combinations of Government and private corporate ownership) of the Alaska natural gas transportation project.

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of the Army (acting through the Chief of Engineers).

(d) **REPORT.**—On completion of any study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary (including proposals for legislation to implement the recommendations).

15 USC 720h.

SEC. 110. CLARIFICATION OF ANGTA STATUS AND AUTHORITIES.

(a) **SAVINGS CLAUSE.**—Nothing in this division affects—

(1) any decision, certificate, permit, right-of-way, lease, or other authorization issued under section 9 of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 719g); or

(2) any Presidential finding or waiver issued in accordance with that Act.

(b) **CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO AMEND TERMS AND CONDITIONS TO MEET CURRENT PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.**—Any Federal agency responsible for granting or issuing any certificate, permit, right-of-way, lease, or other authorization under section 9 of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 719g) may add to, amend, or rescind any term or condition included

in the certificate, permit, right-of-way, lease, or other authorization to meet current project requirements (including the physical design, facilities, and tariff specifications), if the addition, amendment, or rescission—

(1) would not compel any change in the basic nature and general route of the Alaska natural gas transportation system as designated and described in section 2 of the President's decision; or

(2) would not otherwise prevent or impair in any significant respect the expeditious construction and initial operation of the Alaska natural gas transportation system.

(c) **UPDATED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.**—The Secretary shall require the sponsor of the Alaska natural gas transportation system to submit such updated environmental data, reports, permits, and impact analyses as the Secretary determines are necessary to develop detailed terms, conditions, and compliance plans required by section 5 of the President's decision.

SEC. 111. SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING USE OF STEEL MANUFACTURED IN NORTH AMERICA NEGOTIATION OF A PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT. 15 USC 720i.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) an Alaska natural gas transportation project would provide significant economic benefits to the United States and Canada; and

(2) to maximize those benefits, the sponsors of the Alaska natural gas transportation project should make every effort to—

(A) use steel that is manufactured in North America; and

(B) negotiate a project labor agreement to expedite construction of the pipeline.

SEC. 112. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND STUDY CONCERNING PARTICIPATION BY SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS. 15 USC 720j.

(a) **DEFINITION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.**—In this section, the term “small business concern” has the meaning given the term in section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)).

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) an Alaska natural gas transportation project would provide significant economic benefits to the United States and Canada; and

(2) to maximize those benefits, the sponsors of the Alaska natural gas transportation project should maximize the participation of small business concerns in contracts and subcontracts awarded in carrying out the project.

(c) **STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to determine the extent to which small business concerns participate in the construction of oil and gas pipelines in the United States.

(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report that describes results of the study under paragraph (1).

(3) **UPDATES.**—The Comptroller General shall—

(A) update the study at least once every 5 years until construction of an Alaska natural gas transportation project is completed; and

Reports.

(B) on completion of each update, submit to Congress a report containing the results of the update.

15 USC 720k.

SEC. 113. ALASKA PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION TRAINING PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM.—

Grants.

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Labor (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall make grants to the Alaska Workforce Investment Board—

(A) to recruit and train adult and dislocated workers in Alaska, including Alaska Natives, in the skills required to construct and operate an Alaska gas pipeline system; and

(B) for the design and construction of a training facility to be located in Fairbanks, Alaska, to support an Alaska gas pipeline training program.

(2) COORDINATION WITH EXISTING PROGRAMS.—The training program established with the grants authorized under paragraph (1) shall be consistent with the vision and goals set forth in the State of Alaska Unified Plan, as developed pursuant to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.).

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make a grant under subsection (a) only if—

(1) the Governor of the State of Alaska requests the grant funds and certifies in writing to the Secretary that there is a reasonable expectation that the construction of the Alaska natural gas pipeline system will commence by the date that is 2 years after the date of the certification; and

(2) the Secretary of Energy concurs in writing to the Secretary with the certification made under paragraph (1) after considering—

(A) the status of necessary Federal and State permits;

(B) the availability of financing for the Alaska natural gas pipeline project; and

(C) other relevant factors.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$20,000,000. Not more than 15 percent of the funds may be used for the facility described in subsection (a)(1)(B).

15 USC 720l.

SEC. 114. SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING NATURAL GAS DEMAND.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) North American demand for natural gas will increase dramatically over the course of the next several decades;

(2) both the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline and the Mackenzie Delta Natural Gas project in Canada will be necessary to help meet the increased demand for natural gas in North America;

(3) Federal and State officials should work together with officials in Canada to ensure both projects can move forward in a mutually beneficial fashion;

(4) Federal and State officials should acknowledge that the smaller scope, fewer permitting requirements, and lower cost of the Mackenzie Delta project means it will most likely be completed before the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline;

(5) natural gas production in the 48 contiguous States and Canada will not be able to meet all domestic demand in the coming decades; and

(6) as a result, natural gas delivered from Alaskan North Slope will not displace or reduce the commercial viability of Canadian natural gas produced from the Mackenzie Delta or production from the 48 contiguous States.

SEC. 115. SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING ALASKAN OWNERSHIP.

15 USC 720m.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Alaska Native Regional Corporations, companies owned and operated by Alaskans, and individual Alaskans should have the opportunity to own shares of the Alaska natural gas pipeline in a way that promotes economic development for the State; and

(2) to facilitate economic development in the State, all project sponsors should negotiate in good faith with any willing Alaskan person that desires to be involved in the project.

SEC. 116. LOAN GUARANTEES.

15 USC 720n.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—(1) The Secretary may enter into agreements with 1 or more holders of a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued under section 103(b) of this division or section 9 of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 719g) to issue Federal guarantee instruments with respect to loans and other debt obligations for a qualified infrastructure project.

(2) Subject to the requirements of this section, the Secretary may also enter into agreements with 1 or more owners of the Canadian portion of a qualified infrastructure project to issue Federal guarantee instruments with respect to loans and other debt obligations for a qualified infrastructure project as though such owner were a holder described in paragraph (1).

(3) The authority of the Secretary to issue Federal guarantee instruments under this section for a qualified infrastructure project shall expire on the date that is 2 years after the date on which the final certificate of public convenience and necessity (including any Canadian certificates of public convenience and necessity) is issued for the project. A final certificate shall be considered to have been issued when all certificates of public convenience and necessity have been issued that are required for the initial transportation of commercially economic quantities of natural gas from Alaska to the continental United States.

Expiration date.

(b) **CONDITIONS.**—(1) The Secretary may issue a Federal guarantee instrument for a qualified infrastructure project only after a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 103(b) of this division or an amended certificate under section 9 of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 719g) has been issued for the project.

(2) The Secretary may issue a Federal guarantee instrument under this section for a qualified infrastructure project only if the loan or other debt obligation guaranteed by the instrument has been issued by an eligible lender.

(3) The Secretary shall not require as a condition of issuing a Federal guarantee instrument under this section any contractual commitment or other form of credit support of the sponsors (other than equity contribution commitments and completion guarantees), or any throughput or other guarantee from prospective shippers

greater than such guarantees as shall be required by the project owners.

(c) **LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNTS.**—(1) The amount of loans and other debt obligations guaranteed under this section for a qualified infrastructure project shall not exceed 80 percent of the total capital costs of the project, including interest during construction.

(2) The principal amount of loans and other debt obligations guaranteed under this section shall not exceed, in the aggregate, \$18,000,000,000, which amount shall be indexed for United States dollar inflation from the date of enactment of this Act, as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

(d) **LOAN TERMS AND FEES.**—(1) The Secretary may issue Federal guarantee instruments under this section that take into account repayment profiles and grace periods justified by project cash flows and project-specific considerations. The term of any loan guaranteed under this section shall not exceed 30 years.

(2) An eligible lender may assess and collect from the borrower such other fees and costs associated with the application and origination of the loan or other debt obligation as are reasonable and customary for a project finance transaction in the oil and gas sector.

(e) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary may issue regulations to carry out this section.

(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to cover the cost of loan guarantees under this section, as defined by section 502(5) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661a(5)). Such sums shall remain available until expended.

(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.**—The term “Consumer Price Index” means the Consumer Price Index for all-urban consumers, United States city average, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, or if such index shall cease to be published, any successor index or reasonable substitute thereof.

(2) **ELIGIBLE LENDER.**—The term “eligible lender” means any non-Federal qualified institutional buyer (as defined by section 230.144A(a) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), known as Rule 144A(a) of the Securities and Exchange Commission and issued under the Securities Act of 1933), including—

(A) a qualified retirement plan (as defined in section 4974(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 4974(c)) that is a qualified institutional buyer; and

(B) a governmental plan (as defined in section 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 414(d)) that is a qualified institutional buyer.

(3) **FEDERAL GUARANTEE INSTRUMENT.**—The term “Federal guarantee instrument” means any guarantee or other pledge by the Secretary to pledge the full faith and credit of the United States to pay all of the principal and interest on any loan or other debt obligation entered into by a holder of a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

(4) **QUALIFIED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT.**—The term “qualified infrastructure project” means an Alaskan natural gas transportation project consisting of the design, engineering, finance, construction, and completion of pipelines and related transportation and production systems (including gas treatment

plants), and appurtenances thereto, that are used to transport natural gas from the Alaska North Slope to the continental United States.

Approved October 13, 2004.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 4837 (S. 2674):

HOUSE REPORTS: Nos. 108-607 (Comm. on Appropriations) and 108-733 (Comm. of Conference).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 108-309 accompanying S. 2674 (Comm. on Appropriations).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 150 (2004):

July 21, 22, considered and passed House.

Sept. 15, 20, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Oct. 9, House agreed to conference report. Senate considered conference report.

Oct. 11, Senate agreed to conference report.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 40 (2004):

Oct. 13, Presidential statement.