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SERVING THE

VILLAGES OF:

BREVIG MISSION

COUNCIL

DIOMEDE

ELIM

GAMBELL

GOLOVIN

KING ISLAND

KOYUK

MARY'S IGLOO

NOME

SAVOONGA

SHAKTOOLIK

SHISHMAREF

SOLOMON

STEBBINS

ST. MICHAEL

TELLER

UNALAKLEET

WALES

WHITE MOUNTAIN

March 16, 2015

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District  
ATTN: CEPOA-PM-C-PL  
P.O. Box 6898  
JBER, AK 99506-0898  
[akregports@usace.army.mil](mailto:akregports@usace.army.mil)

RE: Alaska Deep-Draft Arctic port System Draft Interim Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment  
REQUEST for 120 Day Comment Period  
REQUEST for Public Meeting in Nome

To Whom It May Concern:

Kawerak, Inc. is the regional tribal consortium for the Bering Strait Region, with offices in Nome. In regards to the above referenced report and environmental assessment, Kawerak is requesting an extension of the comment period to 120 days. We have examined the report and determined that the level of detail and time needed to respond to the issues for the entire 1,081 page port expansion report will require at least 120 days.

Because the Report's findings have such significant potential impacts to the region's future, Kawerak would like to an extension to the timeframe to provide comments so that staff may provide meaningful input to the environmental assessment.

#### CONCLUSION

While the proposed port expansion will provide much-needed infrastructure, there is also a potential impact to subsistence resources to the community of Nome and the region. Kawerak organized a gathering of our regional tribal and municipal leaders last fall, and the number one priority identified related to arctic shipping is the protection of our natural resources, and the second highest priority was the need for infrastructure to achieve this. Given the size of the report, its many components, a short 30-day comment period does not provide enough time for the public to fully weigh in. Please consider our request for time extension for a 120 day public comment period.

If you have questions please feel free to contact Austin Ahmasuk, Marine Advocate at (907) 443-4368 or e-mail [marine.advocate@kawerak.org](mailto:marine.advocate@kawerak.org). Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
KAWERAK, INC.

Melanie Bahnke, President