

2 March 2026

Subject: Local Government Comment: BOEM-2025-0318 (Alaska OCS Mineral Leasing)

To the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

The City of Nome is pleased to submit comments and perspective regarding the RFI for mineral leasing offshore Alaska – specific to Docket BOEM-2025-0318. The Trump Administration’s Executive Order 14153 – “Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential” provides a crucial shift toward national energy independence and brings benefit and opportunity to responsible development of the 49 critical minerals identified in the OCS that are located off the Alaskan coast.

While it is essential to national security to reduce the nation’s reliance on foreign minerals, the Alaskan waters within the OCS are crucial to the Indigenous communities that reside along the coastline as well as the commercial fishing industry. Subsistence hunting and fishing and commercial fisheries are part of the cultural existence of these communities and are essential to the economic base and sustenance of the residents in this region. Offshore mineral development should proceed with appropriate safeguards to ensure that other coastal resources are not jeopardized.

Conclusion

The City of Nome supports the responsible development of the rich bed of minerals found within the OCS including those embedded in the heavy mineral sands located in Norton Sound waters just offshore of Nome. The 49 minerals found in the Alaskan OCS belong to the U.S. and simply must be extracted by American companies for the benefit of the nation – while taking into consideration and protecting both subsistence resources and commercial fishing.

Sincerely,

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