

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Official Business

SENATOR THOMAS H. WAGONER

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- Vice-Chair, Senate Resources Committee
- Member, Legislative Council
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For Immediate Release:

December 29, 2003

Wagoner to Amend Gas Authority for Cook Inlet

Senator Tom Wagoner (R-Kenai) announced today that he has prefiled a bill amending the Natural Gas Development Authority Act of 2002.

The amendment adds to the project definition a specific reference to a line to tidewater in Cook Inlet. The new language requires that the project is a pipeline, with all related appurtenances, from Prudhoe Bay to either tidewater in Valdez or tidewater in Cook Inlet.

“My understanding is that the current project description of a “spur line” to Cook Inlet is not feasible”, said Wagoner. “Also, there is a lot of speculation that a line to Valdez is not economical either, which means the current gas pipeline proposal may be doomed”.

Currently, the Act only provides the authority to investigate a route from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. After discussions with Commission member Bob Favretto, also a resident of the Kenai Peninsula, Senator Wagoner determined that providing this Cook Inlet option was necessary.

According to Wagoner, he discussed this with Representative Mike Chenault, R-Nikiski, who indicated he would be willing to introduce companion legislation in the House of Representatives.

Wagoner commented, “We need to make sure that all Alaskans, including the residents of South Central, have viable options for our gas resources”.

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