

Exhibit 6.

“Oil profits weather ‘Hurricane’”

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Oct. 14, 2012

“Oil Profits weather ‘Hurricane’”

**Richard Fineberg “Community Perspective”
column (with “Hurricane Gulch” chart),
*Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Oct. 14, 2012.***

[Exhibit 6, Pages 1 & 2]

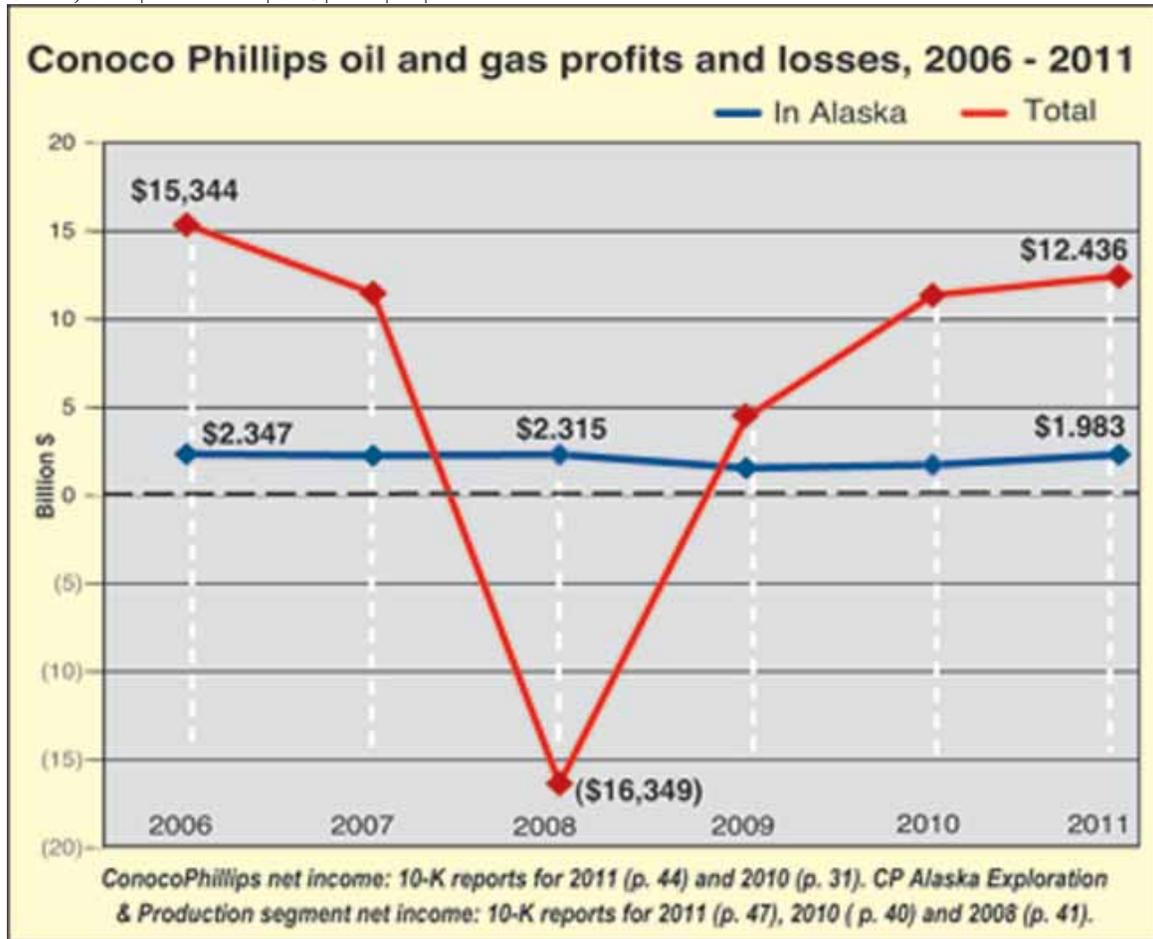
Oct. 14, 2012, p. F3

Oil profits weather ‘Hurricane’

ConocoPhillips expects Alaska to outperform every other oil province

by Richard A. Fineberg

Oct 13, 2012 | 1252 views | 0 | 1 | | |



Richard A. Fineberg (Research Associates), October 2012

They say one picture is worth a thousand words, but here's one picture that is worth \$2 billion per year: Using data that ConocoPhillips reports annually, the attached chart highlights the contrast between steady, after-tax profits the company earns in Alaska and the company's erratic results from its operations in the rest of the world.

Since Alaska switched to a cost-based petroleum production tax six years ago, ConocoPhillips has reported net profits from Alaska averaging more than \$1.9 billion per year. But ConocoPhillips is still recovering from a profit collapse outside Alaska in 2008, when it suffered a tremendous loss that was attributed to natural gas investments in the Lower 48 that went sour as natural gas prices crashed. ConocoPhillips' Alaska net profits of \$3.8 billion for 2008 and 2009 compares to the company's total net loss of \$11.9 billion during the same two years, as graphically demonstrated in the chart.

When ConocoPhillips' performance in Alaska and the rest of the world are viewed together, the resulting picture of the last six years looks like the Parks Highway crossing at Hurricane Gulch, 170 miles north of Anchorage. At Hurricane, travelers cruise across a spectacular, steep-sided gulch on a high bridge. ConocoPhillips' Alaska profits resemble the path of the highway, gliding smoothly over the abyss beneath the Hurricane bridge. Beneath the bridge, the steep slopes form a dramatic "V" that matches ConocoPhillips' overall 2008 profit plunge.

These data graphically demonstrate that the major North Slope producers do not need the \$2 billion annual giveaway in Alaska tax cuts that the governor, the industry and misguided citizens have been advocating for the last two years.

As a long-time observer of Alaska oil and gas policy issues, I have noticed that in the confusion that typically swirls around the controversial oil proposals, even the most basic facts can get lost. For example, ConocoPhillips is one of three companies that wield tremendous power by controlling roughly 95 percent of Alaska North Slope crude oil production; the same three companies also own a roughly similar percentage of the trans-Alaska pipeline system.

A host of facts buried in the company's dense reports to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission support the challenge to the tax cut proposal. For example:

- In the six years since the state shifted to a net profits tax, ConocoPhillips has raked in \$12.3 billion in after-tax profits from Alaska — an average of nearly \$4,000 per minute, day in and day out.
- During this period, while ConocoPhillips' Alaska production has declined by 34 percent, the company's reported Alaska net income for 2011 — \$1.983 billion — is only 16 percent less than its 2006 Alaska profits.

In addition to these historical facts, another important set of data in the ConocoPhillips SEC reports is also overlooked: Looking forward, ConocoPhillips' estimates of future performance, filed in conformance with SEC requirements, indicate that the company expects its Alaska investments to outperform its investments in every other part of the world by significant margins.

The facts that ConocoPhillips has earned remarkably steady profits from Alaska under the current tax regime and anticipates higher future returns from Alaska than from other regions undermines that company's plea for a big Alaskan oil tax cut.

While ConocoPhillips is required to file public information relevant to its Alaska operations in its annual 10-K report to the SEC, neither of the other two major North Slope producing companies — ExxonMobil and BP — are required to do so. Moreover, legislative hearings have demonstrated that state management entities such as the petroleum audit system are notoriously incapable of producing reliable data on petroleum expenditures.

In this troubled situation, I believe that state senators such as Joe Paskvan and Joe Thomas deserve great credit for their efforts to provide the public with basic facts as they seek constructive solutions to North Slope petroleum development issues.

The picture painted by the accompanying chart is worth \$2 billion per year. Look for candidates with the brains to recognize the significance of the SEC 10-K data on ConocoPhillips and the guts to use this information.

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