

## **EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE**

### **Summary of Principals Meeting December 2, 2021**

#### **Overview**

On December 2, 2021, the Arctic Executive Steering Committee (AESC) held its first Principals Meeting in the Biden-Harris Administration. Eric Lander, the President's Science Advisor and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, chaired the AESC. Jake Sullivan, the President's National Security Advisor, served as vice chair of the meeting. Federal departments and agencies that participate in the AESC are listed in the Executive Order noted below.

The meeting included the following segments: Opening remarks by Eric Lander and Jake Sullivan; reflection on current geopolitical trends in the Arctic region; and consideration of proposed initiatives on topics such as (1) assisting environmentally threatened communities in Alaska; (2) facilitating the transition to renewable energy in Alaska; (3) improving water and sanitation services to Alaskan communities; (4) advancing marine science in the Arctic; and (5) making Arctic shipping safer and more environmentally secure.

#### **Background**

President Obama created the AESC through [Executive Order 13698](#) and directed it to

provide guidance to executive departments and agencies and enhance coordination of Federal Arctic policies across agencies and offices, and, where applicable, with State, local, and Alaska Native tribal governments and similar Alaska Native organizations, academic and research institutions, and the private and nonprofit sectors.

#### **Next AESC Meeting**

Pursuant to Executive Order 13698, the AESC the “will meet quarterly, or as appropriate, to shape priorities, establish strategic direction, oversee implementation, and ensure coordination of Federal activities in the Arctic”. The AESC intends to hold its next meeting in the first quarter of 2022.