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[EXTERNAL] Scoping Period in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge1 message

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To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Please do NOT open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling! We should be preserving our natural resources, not destroying them. Drilling on this wildlife refuge would be unpatriotic and anti-American. If you care about our country, please stop this madness.

- **Climate change.** Air temperatures on the Arctic Refuge have already increased by several degrees and are projected to warm 6° F by 2040, shrinking habitat and food sources. Burning the Refuge's oil and gas reserves would not only add fuel to the fire but exacerbate risks to polar bears and other species already struggling with melting sea ice.
- **Wildlife.** This is a rare chance to ensure America's greatest wilderness remains pristine to protect the fish, wildlife and migratory birds that depend on it. Between Arctic Refuge and the adjacent Arctic Ocean one finds 700 kinds of plants, 200 species of birds, 47 mammal species and 42 fish species. No other protected area in the entire circumpolar north has such abundant and diverse wildlife.
- **Wilderness.** With two adjacent Canadian National Parks, the Arctic Refuge ecosystem is the largest and wildest protected landscape in North America, affording unparalleled opportunities for those seeking the solace of undisturbed areas and vicariously enjoyed by many who may never personally experience it.
- **No need for Arctic Refuge oil.** There's been declining interest in Arctic Refuge oil exploration in the last decade as fracking technology enabled oil companies to reach previously inaccessible reserves. Coupled with increased offshore drilling, U.S. crude oil reserves doubled between 2008 and 2014 and oil prices are a fraction of what they were a decade ago. At the same time, conservation allowed U.S. oil imports to decline from 12.5 million barrels per day in 2005 to 5 million in 2014. Increased fuel economy standards will save the U.S. more oil than we import from the Persian Gulf and Venezuela combined.
- **Never forget--it's *your* land!** Its proper name is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge--not "ANWR." Oil interests want you to forget it's your land--a *national wildlife refuge*--by reducing it to a four-letter word. As the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) reaffirmed, it's a place of "national interest," Arctic Refuge may be *in* Alaska but it doesn't *belong* to Alaska. As U.S. residents, each of us has as much to say about the future of the Arctic Refuge as any Alaskan.
- **Threatening the Gwich'in Way of Life.** The Arctic Refuge is the homeland for the Gwich'in people who have depended on the caribou for their subsistence for thousands of years. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge will impact their way of life and threatened their very existence. The Arctic Refuge's coastal plain is actually so sacred to the Gwich'in that they will not travel there. The coastal plain is the calving grounds for hundreds of thousands of porcupine caribou and the Gwich'in refer to it as "The Sacred Place Where Life Begins."