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[EXTERNAL] Scoping for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge1 message

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Comments on Scoping for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

We are in opposition to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). This scoping is being rushed. Enough time has not been allowed for important public comments to be written or proper scientific studies to be conducted. The whole process is being set on fast forward without proper thought and consideration. A "No Drill" option needs to be a part of the Environmental Impact Study (EIS).

We have both visited the ANWR and appreciate the vast wilderness that has been preserved. David guided many trips there focused on wildlife viewing and, in particular, bird watching. People come from all over the United States and the rest of the world to visit this national treasure. We realize how pristine and fragile this area is as a nesting habitat for a wide range of upland birds, shorebirds and sea birds. The EIS must be thorough to meet or even exceed standards set forth in the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Areas of incomplete baseline (as noted by Northwest Arctic Borough) include water and air quality, marine mammal migration and habitat, subsistence impacts and health impacts. Reviewing should completely consider cumulative impacts on health, social structure and Inupiat culture as well as the cumulative environmental effects of drilling on all species.

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