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Attn: Coastal Plain Oil + Gas Leasing  
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At Fairbanks, AK

## In Defense of the Sacred, Commentary on BLM Scoping Process, 5/29/2018

Opening the Arctic National Wildlife refuge, not ANWR, is a bad idea, disrespectful of those who regard it as a sacred place because of their connectedness to it. I write with my heart on the ground that the sacred to some is so little valued by those who view the land as the next place where a minority may profit in the short run while many more become losers.

If your effort is worthy, and one of integrity it will examine and clearly explain what will be lost not just for a day but eternally, should this ill advised intrusion come to be. The earth will remain but our civilization, bringing on fossil fuels for short term gain may not. Write of the values that abide, love of the land and of wild places and a way of life, and being on the land that will be lost should the heavy foot of industrial man be allowed to cross the threshold of this enduring temple.

I long for that day when all of God's creation may live in peace and harmony with one another, where power over is not seen as greater than love, compassion and a sense of community built on shared values.

You may study the impacts of this and that, assess how the thermal balance of a land underlain by permafrost will be upset, talk to native elders about the sacredness of place, and to climate scientist about the advisability of burning more fossil fuels sucked from a still wild place and more. But in the end if, what you recommend is anything but no action you will have failed a sacred trust for political expediency.

There is more here at stake than meets the eye. If we as a people cannot uphold the sacred, here on a national and world treasure we deserve to be left on the ash heap of history. Denis Bider aka Don Race