

Arctic Sample Comments

Please use these samples to help craft your own comment! They are broken down by category.

1. Endangerment of the Polar Bears

The beauty of the wild is obvious when watching videos of polar bears hunt, fight, and protect their children. The ice-covered landscape is the polar bear's playground, with sea ice acting as a platform for the bears to prey on seals and a denning habitat for solitude. We greatly understand the importance of protecting such magnificent creatures. We must ensure their habitat remains protected. Many of us here wish for our children to see images of polar bears without the words "extinct" next to the photo.

Unfortunately, scientists predict that polar bears will face global extinction by the end of this century. Global warming coupled with the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will be the kiss of death. Despite the Endangered Species Act listing the polar bear as threatened, the Department of the Interior has illegally delayed the protection of the polar bear. Now, with the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to private owners, oil companies will take control of the land. Oil drilling will subject some of the species' most precious habitat to environmental destruction and devastation. Not only could the bear's home be lost to oil and gas companies, but the minerals that are extracted could gravely harm the animals. Contact with oil spills can reduce the insulating effect of the bears' fur, making staying warm a very difficult task. If the bears ingest oil, the toxins could cause liver and kidney damage.

Polar bears need our help and they needed it 20 years ago. We have not taken the action we need to ensure their survival. But in this moment right now, we can act. The United States Federal Government can take the steps needed to protect polar bears and their habitat. We must not allow the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to be gutted and sold off to the highest bidder. This land belongs to all of us, and most importantly, it belongs to the animals that made that land their home. The government must not sell off the Refuge to companies that wish to profit off the death of the polar bears. Secretary Zinke, you must protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I refuse to allow our nation to take part in selling off our land to cronies.

2. For future generations

I have spent my entire life hearing about the need for America to act on climate change. I constantly agonize over my future and the future of generations after me. And yet here we are, creating another threat to my future and continuing to neglect the scientific data that explains the threats climate change poses to our country and the world. Oil and gas drilling in the Arctic will serve to exacerbate climate change. I fear I will never be able to see the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in all of its grandeur, with the white capped mountains and endless sea of ice. With the increase of temperatures, the Refuge will be a completely different landscape by the time I or generations after me can visit this unique place. Additionally, the oil and gas drilling have the potential to devastate pristine, mostly untouched landscape. The process of extraction and inevitable spills will contaminate land I wish to one day explore.

I have been proud of America's commitment to our public lands. I have been proud of our commitment to wild places. But now I am ashamed of our government as the Department of the Interior seeks to sell our public land to cronies that wish to exploit natural resources for themselves. That is why I oppose oil and gas activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and stand with the Gwich'in to demand that the coastal plain of the Refuge remain protected for future generations.

3. Public Lands Ethics

We must acknowledge what is happening here today. The federal government is allowing a public lands takeover. The Department of the Interior is encouraging oil and gas companies to take our land and ruin the beauty of public spaces. The takeover will become a part of America's public land legacy, which began over one hundred years ago. We cannot give up that legacy now to companies that only want to line their pockets by destroying the environment.

Our legacy is to protect our public lands for the wild animals, for our ability to climb, hike, fish, and hunt, and for future generations. The opening of the Refuge to development will tarnish America's history. These lands are meant for the people of America to enjoy and for the protection of the natural beauty and animals of the area. If we open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development, all other public lands could be threatened. The Arctic is one of the most untouched areas of our country. We cannot stand by and watch as this place is lost to energy development. There are some places drilling doesn't belong, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of those places.

Oil and gas activities should not be allowed on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge. This is the single most destructive attack on the wilderness, wildlife, and subsistence resources of a national wildlife refuge in modern history. This is why I urge Congress, the Department of the Interior and the Administration, to act now and permanently protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

4. Drilling will damage the wildlife refuge forever

It's imperative that we understand what's at stake here. If we allow oil exploration and drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, one of the last pristine and untouched wild spaces left on earth, it will never be the same again. Once these oil companies start to pollute its landscapes, endanger its wildlife, and disrupt the communities that have called the Arctic their home for years, there will be no going back.

Additionally, if we allow oil exploration and drilling in the Arctic, we must understand that we would not just be failing these incredible animals and peaceful communities, but our children, and our children's children. Future generations will never be able to enjoy the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in its full wild, beauty; they will never be able to reap the benefits of the natural resources we irresponsibly destroyed years before.

This is why I urge Congress, the Department of the Interior and the Administration, to act now and permanently protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. A place this beautiful and valuable should have never been on the table in the first place.

5. Senator Murkowski is pushing the American people don't want

Let's be clear. The main beneficiaries of this attack on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are Senator Murkowski and the oil companies that have lobbied her and paid her to hand over one of our nation's most irreplaceable landscapes and valued natural resources. Senator Murkowski, knowing that the American public and her fellow Congressmen and women, both Republicans and Democrats, would not approve of this sellout utilized extraordinary and borderline undemocratic measure to pass this provision.

First, Senator Murkowski tucked the provision in last year's tax package and then proceeded to ensure that there would be no debate on the issue. This way, she effectively silenced her fellow members of Congress on the issue. Finally, Senator Murkowski manages to pass the proposal by only 50 votes. The number of votes usually required is 60. Now Senator Murkowski is trying to speed up the leasing process.

However, I am hopeful that the American public will utilize the 60-day public comment period that expired on June 19 to reiterate that protecting wild places such as the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge is a core American value.

We must tell Senator Murkowski that we will not let her sacrifice the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to get a nice pay raise from her friends at the oil lobby.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the habitat that hundreds of caribou and polar bear (amongst hundreds of other amazing species) and the livelihood of the communities that call the Arctic their home is not for sale.

