



BECOME AN ARCTIC DEFENDER

Text
ARCTIC
to
698-66

Public Comment Guidelines:

- Speaker cards are being distributed on a first-come, first-served basis
- Speakers will fill out two cards – one to keep and one to place in the draw box
- Speaker cards have a number in the upper right corner
- The draw box will be moved to the stage after the presentation, and no more speaker cards will be allowed
- The initial ten speakers will be randomly selected from the draw box and they will sit in the speaker chairs (numbers displayed on projector screen)
- After a speaker is finished, another number will be randomly selected
- When your number is called, please proceed to the speaker chairs and hand your speaker card to the person attending the microphone
- To begin public testimony, please state your speaker card number, name, and the organization you are representing, speaking clearly into the microphone
- You will have a maximum of 3 minutes to speak, as indicated by the digital countdown timer on the projection screen

**Thank you for standing up to say
NO to drilling in the Arctic Refuge!**

Please use this information in your public comment

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is facing greater risks than ever before, and its sensitive Coastal Plain could be handed over to the oil industry.

- Congressional Republicans snuck a rider opening up the Refuge into the budget, and now the Trump administration is pushing to sell off the Coastal Plain to the oil and

gas industry on an accelerated schedule.

- This is yet another example of Donald Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke disregarding indigenous rights and public wishes in the rush to sell out our public lands to oil interests.
- Opening the Refuge to drilling will do little to increase America's energy security and would pave the way for a sprawling industrial complex and the frequent spills that come with oil development. The US is exporting more oil than at any time in our history and we do not need to ruin our special places under a false claim of energy security. There is no way to drill without harming the entire coastal plain of the Refuge and the people and wildlife it supports.

We have a responsibility to protect the Arctic Refuge and ensure it isn't forever scarred.

- Polling shows 2/3 of Americans oppose drilling in the Arctic Refuge.
- Over the past decades millions of Americans, including the Gwich'in Nation, have stood up to guard this incredible place as politicians and oil companies sought to permanently destroy the Refuge for a finite supply of dirty fossil fuel.
- Alaska is ground zero for climate change, warming twice as fast as the rest of the country. Already Arctic sea ice is retreating, shores are eroding, glaciers are shrinking, permafrost is thawing, and insect outbreaks and wildfires are becoming more common.
- Opening the Arctic Refuge to drilling would release the equivalent of 898 coal plants-worth of greenhouse gases in one year, which will only worsen climate impacts in the melting Arctic and abroad.

The Arctic Refuge is an important symbol of the wild, and a cornerstone of the hope and peace of mind that can only be found in connecting with nature.

- The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a truly special place, home to lands and wildlife vital for the subsistence way of life of the Gwich'in. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of America's last wild places, and the coastal plain is its biological heart. The coastal plain is one of the few places in the United States that has never been developed or inhabited, and there are no roads or homes or permanent structures of any kind there.
- The Gwich'in people have thrived in villages along the migration path of the Porcupine Caribou Herd since time immemorial, and consider the Coastal Plain where calves are born sacred. The Gwich'in depend on the caribou for subsistence. The protection of the coastal plain is a matter of survival and food security for the Gwich'in people, whose way of life is tied inextricably to the health of the caribou. The few western foods that are shipped into the villages are prohibitively expensive and cannot be substituted for the abundance of caribou.
- The Refuge is home to more than 200 wildlife species. Its coastal plain is where the Porcupine caribou herd travel to birth their young and is the most important denning site for polar bears in the United States. The Arctic Refuge the only place in the U.S. where all three species of bears - brown (which includes grizzlies), black and polar - can be found.

Amplify on social media with
#ProtectTheArctic

