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[EXTERNAL] The Great Alaskan Swamp Sellout: Too risky REFUSE Oil /Gas excavations We Will Lose our UNIQUE refuge1 message

Linda Franklin <franklindag@yahoo.com>

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With all due respect, the Arctic Refuge is NO place for this kind of activity.

Accidents DO happen and once damage is done, not only unique fauna and marine life is ruined forever but getting gas and oil companies to pay for clean up is a long tortured process with lawyers, expenses and false promises and fine print in contracts winning out.

Alaska does NOT need this headache and the caribou who calve in this now pristine area will lose their homes just in the exploratory phase of this badly thought out plan.

Once this Refuge is destroyed, WHERE is the "safety net" refuge? There IS NONE.

The price you will pay is accelerating the DESTRUCTION of an already jeopardized area environmentally speaking. Below find less "emotional" and more factual arguments.

Remember it is the LOCALS who will PAY for this greedy plan, NOT the wealthy corporate officers nor the shareholders. The LOCALS include the inhabitants of these areas: caribou, marine life already facing tough adjustments due to the melting icecaps. thanks for reading to the end. lgf

The Arctic Refuge is no place for oil and gas. 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.

The Administration is putting politics above protection of one of our most treasured public lands. Rushing into leasing is not what the Refuge deserves or what the law requires. The administration needs to comply with all the important legal protections that are in place to protect caribou, water,

subsistence, and other sensitive resources of the Coastal Plain.

The Coastal Plain is the biological heart of the Arctic Refuge and provides important habitat for polar bears, caribou, muskoxen, and hundreds of species of migratory birds that travel from all 50 states and 6 continents. Oil and gas would harm the most important onshore denning habitat for threatened polar bears in the United States, further placing this imperiled species at risk. Oil and gas activities would also further exacerbate climate change, which is already causing temperatures in the Arctic to rise at twice the rate of the rest of the country. Oil and gas activities are completely at odds with the protection of the wildlife and other values in the Refuge, and with the urgent need to address climate change.

The Coastal Plain is the calving and post-calving ground for the Porcupine Caribou Herd, an important subsistence resource for the Gwich'in Nation. The Gwich'in people have relied on the caribou for millennia and consider the Coastal Plain to be "the sacred place where life begins." Protecting the caribou and its habitats is a matter of basic human rights for the Gwich'in. Protection of the herd and its habitats along its migration route is one of the original reasons why the Arctic Refuge was set aside, and there is treaty between the U.S. and Canada to protect the herd. Interior needs to gather the best possible scientific information and err on the side of caution to ensure that the herd is fully protected from oil and gas activities.

Interior needs to consider the impacts from all stages of oil and gas, including seismic activities, leasing, exploration drilling, and development, as well as any related infrastructure or other activities. The environmental impacts from oil and gas will extend well beyond the footprint of any actual developments and will harm the wildlife, water, subsistence, and other values the Arctic Refuge was set aside to protect.