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Attn: Coastal Plain Oil + Gas Leasing Program E 15  
222 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Stop #13  
Anchorage, Alaska

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Clifford Peters  
1181 County Rd.  
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February 12, 2019

Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS  
222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

#### Regarding the Opening of the ANWR to Oil and Gas Exploration

As a concerned U.S. citizen, I am writing to express and post my opposition as a Public Comment to any oil and gas exploration in the ANWR for the following reasons:

In 2008, the U.S. Department of Energy reported uncertainties about the USGS oil estimates for ANWR and the projected effects on oil price and supplies. "There is little direct knowledge regarding the petroleum geology of the ANWR region.... ANWR oil production is not projected to have a large impact on world oil prices.... Additional oil production resulting from the opening of ANWR would be only a small portion of total world oil production, and would likely be offset in part by somewhat lower production outside the United States."

The DOE reported that annual United States consumption of crude oil and petroleum products was 7.55 billion barrels ( $1.200 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup>) in 2006. In comparison, the USGS estimated that the ANWR reserve contains 10.4 billion barrels ( $1.65 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup>). Although, only 7.7 billion barrels ( $1.22 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup>) were thought to be within the proposed drilling region.

"Environmentalists and most congressional Democrats have resisted drilling in the area because the required network of oil platforms, pipelines, roads and support facilities, not to mention the threat of foul spills, would play havoc on wildlife. The coastal plain, for example, is a calving home for some 129,000 caribou."

The National Resources Defense Council has said that drilling would not take place in a compact, 2,000-acre (810 ha) space as proponents say, but would create "a spiderweb of industrial sprawl across the whole of the refuge's 1.5-million-acre (0.61-million ha) coastal plain,

including drill sites, airports and roads, and gravel mines, spreading across more than 640,000 acres (260,000 ha). The NRDC also said there is danger of oil spills in the region.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has said that the 1002 area has a "greater degree of ecological diversity than any other similar sized area of Alaska's north slope". The FWS also states, "Those who campaigned to establish the Arctic Refuge recognized its wild qualities and the significance of these spatial relationships. Here lies an unusually diverse assemblage of large animals and smaller, less-appreciated life forms, tied to their physical environments and to each other by natural, undisturbed ecological and evolutionary processes."

Prior to 2008, 39% of the residents of the United States and a majority of Canadians opposed drilling in the refuge.

The Alaska Inter-Tribal Council (AI-TC), which represents 229 Native Alaskan tribes, officially opposes any development in ANWR. In March 2005 Luci Beach, the executive director of the steering committee for the Native Alaskan and Canadian Gwich'in tribe (a member of the AI-TC), during a trip to Washington D.C., while speaking for a unified group of 55 Alaskan and Canadian indigenous peoples, said that drilling in ANWR is "a human rights issue and it's a basic Aboriginal human rights issue". She went on to say, "Sixty to 70 percent of our diet comes from the land and caribou is one of the primary animals that we depend on for sustenance." The Gwich'in tribe adamantly believes that drilling in ANWR would have serious negative effects on the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd that they partially rely on for food.

A part of the Inupiat population of Kaktovik, and 5,000 to 7,000 Gwich'in peoples feel their lifestyle would be disrupted or destroyed by drilling. The Inupiat from Point Hope, Alaska recently passed resolutions recognizing that drilling in ANWR would allow resource exploitation in other wilderness areas. The Inupiat, Gwich'in, and other tribes are calling for sustainable energy practices and policies. The Tanana Chiefs Conference (representing 42 Alaska Native villages from 37 tribes) opposes drilling, as do at least 90 Native American tribes. The National Congress of American Indians (representing 250 tribes), the Native American Rights Fund as well as some Canadian tribes also oppose drilling in the 1002 area.

In May 2006 a resolution was passed in the village of Kaktovik calling Shell Oil Company "a hostile and dangerous force" that authorized the mayor to take legal and other actions necessary to "defend the community". The resolution also calls on all North Slope communities to oppose Shell owned offshore leases unrelated to the ANWR controversy until the company becomes more respectful of the people. Mayor Sonsalla says Shell has failed to work with the villagers on how the company would protect bowhead whales, which are part of Native culture, subsistence life, and diet.

In 2014, President Barack Obama proposed an additional 5 million acres as wilderness area, making a total of 12.8 million acres permanently off limits to drilling or other development including the Coastal Plain where oil exploration has been sought.

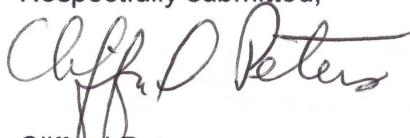
Moderate Republican House of Representatives member Carlos Curbelo and eleven others sent a letter to the Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, urging him to not include drilling in the December 2017 major tax rewrite, but the language remained in Senate passed bill. Rep. Curbelo still voted for the final bill that included drilling.

Wildlife experts know seismic exploratory practices will harm or kill wildlife in the ANWR.

The ANWR was created as a Wildlife Refuge in 1979, and for 40 years has proven a good steward.

We have an abundance of oil and gas already. In an age where we, as a nation, should be leaving existing oil and gas deposits in the ground and focusing on cleaner alternative "green" options, exploration in sensitive areas dedicated to protecting wildlife and our seas should be banned. The above sources of information are common knowledge and can be easily checked.

Respectfully submitted,



Clifford Peters