

August 29, 2022

The Honorable Debra Haaland
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C St., NW-6156
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

As organizations and businesses from across the country committed to addressing the climate emergency, we are writing to urge the administration to deny approval for ConocoPhillips' massive oil and gas project located in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (Reserve). At a time when the world is focused on climate solutions and clean-energy transition, this far-reaching oil and gas drilling proposal would lock in at least three decades of Arctic fossil fuel infrastructure and extraction, with plans calling for up to 250 wells, 37 miles of roads, 389 miles of pipelines, airstrips, and a new central processing facility to be built in the remote and climate-stressed Arctic. As Earthjustice and Evergreen Action note in their recent report, no single oil and gas project has more potential to set back the administration's climate goals than the Willow Project. Given the immense scale and consequences of this project, we are requesting that your administration choose the no action alternative.

The Biden administration, acknowledging the existential threat of climate change, campaigned on one of the most ambitious climate agendas our country has ever seen. Yet much remains to be done to cut our nation's greenhouse gas emissions to at least meet the administration's goal of 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. Lifecycle emissions from fossil fuels extracted on public lands have accounted for nearly a quarter of the country's carbon emissions on average since 2005. Pivoting from fossil fuel production on federal public lands, in sensitive places like America's Arctic, is an essential part of achieving this goal and preventing climate disaster. Willow is the single largest oil extraction project proposed on federal lands and is estimated to contribute between 278 million and 284 million metric tons of CO₂ over the next 30 years. This is an enormous contribution to emissions from a single project, equivalent to more than 4% of current annual emissions for the entire country. A recent study by the Center for American Progress found that, if approved and implemented, carbon emission from the Willow Project would single-handedly erase the climate benefits of renewable energy that this administration has promised on public lands and waters by 2030.

The Willow project's climate impact is heightened by its location in the western Arctic, which is suffering severe stress as it warms four times faster than the rest of the world. Because the permafrost is rapidly thawing due to the accelerating impact of climate change, ConocoPhillips has admitted that it plans to artificially chill the melting tundra to sustain this expansive oil and gas infrastructure. This high level of development investment would cause direct damage on the ground as it threatens to lock in oil production for decades.

In the recently released Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposed a range of ways this project could move forward. The proposed action alternatives differ slightly in terms of scale and levels of connectivity, but they would still produce approximately the same amount of oil and thus have nearly identical climate consequences to one

another. Moreover, ConocoPhillips has made clear that Willow is just the first step in a longer-term plan to develop an 'infrastructure hub' in the western Arctic stretching far beyond the currently proposed development. ConocoPhillips executives told investors that the company had already identified three billion barrels of oil in nearby prospects and that Willow's design was intended for expansion. This means that the infrastructure built for Willow could extract almost five times the amount of oil than is currently reflected in the environmental impact statement. This piecemeal approach downplays the true impacts of the Willow development and the environmental analysis represents only a fraction of what ConocoPhillips has planned for the region.

Even the most scaled-down version of the Willow development would still call for drilling and infrastructure in the sensitive and globally significant ecosystem around Teshekpuk Lake. The world has lost two-thirds of its wildlife populations in the last 50 years, and the Teshekpuk Lake area provides vital nesting habitat for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds from around the globe, supporting the highest density of shorebirds in the circumpolar Arctic. It is also the primary calving ground and a key foraging area for the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd, a vital subsistence resource for communities in Arctic Alaska. This is the only herd that stays in the Arctic all year and this project would expose the herd to year-round industrial activity, while also threatening to cut off the animals' migration route. Impacts from Willow's industrial sprawl would further exacerbate the stress these irreplaceable species are already suffering from climate change.

Our country is at a critical juncture in addressing the global climate emergency. The decision your administration will make on the Willow Project is pivotal with the potential to bring our country an important step closer to meeting our climate commitments or lock the U.S. into another 30 years of heavy fossil fuel extraction. If the administration is serious about achieving its climate goals and continuing to lead in the global effort to curb the climate crisis, this project cannot move forward. We are confident that a careful study based on the best available science will show that 'Alternative A: No Action' best complies with the administration's commitments to addressing the climate crisis, protecting biodiversity, and complying with its own legal mandates.

On behalf of the 161 undersigned,

198 Methods	American Federation of Government Employees
350 Bay Area Action	Local 704
350 Hawaii	Animals Are Sentient Beings Inc.
350 Mass	Arctic Refuge Defense Campaign
350 Triangle	Arkansas Valley Audubon Society
350 Juneau	Association of Young Americans
7 Directions of Service	Audubon Alaska
Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action	Audubon Rockies
Aiken Audubon	Azul
Alabama Interfaith Power & Light	Baltimore Area Chapter of Climate Reality
Alaska Community Action on Toxics	Ban SUP (Single Use Plastic)
Alaska Soles, Great Old Broads for Wilderness	Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
Alaska Wilderness League	Braided River
Alpacka Raft	Businesses for a Livable Climate

California Environmental Voters
Californians for Western Wilderness
Call to Action Colorado
Camels Hump Rain Barrels
Capitol Heights Presbyterian
Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition
CEO Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm
Change the Chamber
Chapel Hill Organization for Clean Energy
Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood
Climate Action Campaign of the Humboldt
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Reality MOCO
Concerned Health Professionals of Pennsylvania
Conservation Lands Foundation
CURE (Clean up the River Environment)
Dayenu: A Jewish Call for Climate Action
Defenders of Wildlife
Denver Audubon
Divest Ed
Don't Waste Arizona
Earth Ethics, Inc.
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Education Through Engagement, LLC
Elders Climate Action Maryland Chapter
Endangered Species Coalition
Energy21 LTD
Environment America
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Evergreen Action
Evergreen Audubon
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
Figure 8 Investment Strategies
Florida Council of Churches
Food & Water Watch
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Lost Coast
Good Neighbor Steering Committee of Benicia
Grand Valley Audubon Society
Great Bear Foundation
Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace USA
Healthy Ocean Coalition
Hispanic Access Foundation
Honor the Earth
Indigenous Environmental Network
Indivisible Ambassadors
Inland Ocean Coalition
Interfaith Power & Light
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth
Island Institute
Iowa Audubon
Izaak Walton League, Duluth Chapter
Izaak Walton League, Wes Libbey Northern
Lakes Chapter
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
Kenmore People for Climate Action
Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety and
Environment
League of Conservation Voters
Littleton Business Alliance
Love is King
Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association Board
Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries
Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action
Montbello Neighborhood Improvement
Association
Movement Rights
MoveOn.org Hoboken
National Audubon Society
Native Movement
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nicaragua Center for Community Action
North Range Concerned Citizens
Northcoast Environmental Center
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Now or Never
Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS)
Outdoor Gear and Beer
Patagonia
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Protect All Children's Environment
Protect Our Winters
Public Citizen
Public Lands
Putnam Progressives
Rapid Shift Network
Resist the Pipeline

RESTORE: The North Woods
Roaring Fork Audubon
Saint Paul Audubon Society
Sanctuary Forest
Save EPA (former employees)
Schools for Climate Action
Seeding Sovereignty
Sierra Club
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
SOMA Action
Soul River Inc.
South Asian Fund for Education Scholarship and
Training Inc.
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Southwest Organization for Sustainability
Sovereign Iñupiat for a Living Arctic
Spirit of the Sun, Inc.
Stand.earth
Sunrise Movement
System Change Not Climate Change
Terra Advocati
The Green House Connection Center
The Natural History Museum
The People's Justice Council
The Wilderness Society
The Writer's Block Bookstore and Café

Third Act
Tidelines Institute
Tongass Women's Earth & Climate Action
Network - Tongass Forest
Trustees for Alaska
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Unite North Metro Denver
Veterans For Peace
Wall of Women
Waterway Advocates
Weminuche Audubon Society
Western Slope Businesses for a Livable Climate
Wild Connections
Wild Montana
Wild Watershed
Wilderness Watch
Wilwerding Consulting
Winter Wildlands Alliance
Women's International League for Peace and
Freedom
Women's International League for Peace and
Freedom of the Triangle, NC
Womxn from the Mountain
Woodstock Fisheries LLC
Working for Racial Equity