

Sec. Zinke -

On behalf of our millions of members across the country, we the undersigned are using our voice to call for protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. During the current public comment period, we are calling on you to acknowledge the rights of the Gwich'in people and the will of the overwhelming majority of Americans by halting attempts to move forward with drilling in the Arctic Refuge. Our businesses and organizations represent a broad and diverse constituency that illustrates how folks throughout this country deeply appreciate our nation's wild spaces.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of our nation's most iconic wild areas and it deserves our most enduring legal protections. An immense wilderness, bursting with biodiversity and framed by the awe-inspiring Brooks Mountain Range, the Arctic Refuge is pristine, it is spectacular, and it belongs to all Americans. For more than 50 years, our country has remained committed to protecting this unparalleled landscape, particularly its sensitive coastal plain, and we want to make sure that it remains off-limits to exploration and development for future generations to experience.

The Arctic Refuge's values are unique and diverse. Home to caribou, musk oxen, wolves and polar bears, the Refuge is an American treasure. Each summer, nearly 200 species of migratory birds come to the Refuge to nest and raise their young before migrating to six continents and all 50 states.

The Refuge is also ground zero for climate change. During the past 40 years, Alaska has warmed twice as fast as the rest of the country. Villages are eroding into the sea, permafrost melt is making infrastructure insecure, and food sources are disappearing. More oil drilling will compound the devastating impacts already being felt from climate change throughout the Arctic.

Proposed Arctic Refuge development is also a human rights issue for the Alaska Native people who depend on it to preserve their way of life and have fought to protect it for time immemorial. The Gwich'in refer to the Refuge's coastal plain as "The Sacred Place Where Life Begins." Climate change is taking away Alaska Native communities' ability to hunt for the very foods that have sustained them for generations. We can't risk compounding this problem by adding drilling to the equation.

Signed,

Arctic Treks
Animal Daycare & Boarding
Kodiak Island Brewing Co
Glacier Valley Soap Co.
Eyak Preservation Council
ASCENDING PATH
Hugh Rose Photography
Arctic Wild
Colin Tyler Photography

Alaska Wildlife Alliance
5th Avenue Design & Graphics
Audubon Society of Central Arkansas
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council
Flemish Centre for Indigenous Peoples
Global Exchange
The Avarna Group, LLC
The Center for Sustainable Practice in the
Arts

Northcoast Environmental Center
Dr Hops Kombucha Beer LLC
Northcoast Environmental Center
Northcoast Environmental Center
Klamath Forest Alliance
Northcoast Environmental Center
Safe Alternatives for our Forest
Environment
Northcoast Environmental Center
Californians for Western Wilderness
Salmon River Concerned Citizens
HSU; Humbolt Trails Council (affiliations)
Tri-City Ecology Center
Environmental Protection Information
Center
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Protect Our Winters
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Rocky Mountain Wild
Cetacean Society International
Born Free USA
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children
and Families
Conservation Foundation of the Gulf
Coast
Earth Ethics
Artic Solar
All brand vacuums inc.
Speak Out for Species
Georgia ForestWatch
Iowa Audubon
Scott Community College Environmental
Club
Peoria Audubon Society
Heartwood
Bird Conservation Network, Inc.
Heartwood
LA Audubon Council
Delta Chapter Sierra Club-- New Orleans
Group
New Orleans Sierra Club
Migrations
Walden Woods Project
RESTORE: The North Woods
Green Newton
2020 Action
Rachel Carson Council
Nuclear Information and Resource
Service

Natural Resources Council of Maine
Coyote Graphics
Design Chocolate
Polaris Associates
Green Bounty
3D Health Alliance
Citizen for Sane Environmental Policy
Three-legged Frog Environmental Club at
Minneapolis Community and Technical
College
Friends of Lake Hiawatha
Blue Lake Studio
Wilderness in the City
Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League
of America
Cass County MN Izaak Walton League
Chapter
Morning Earth
Mankato Area Environmentalists
One Worl Endeavors
Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter
Project Sweetie Pie
Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy
Cool Planet
Isanti County Environmental Coalition
Women Observing Wildlife-MN
Zumbro Valley Audubon
Greater Ozarks Audubon Society
Revolution House Media
Dogwood Alliance
Wildlife Adventures
Upper Valley Sierra Club
Nature Discovery Center
Hackensack Riverkeeper, Inc.
Energy21 LTD
Onondaga Audubon
Blackbrook Audubon Society
Canton Audubon Society
Akron Garden Club
Headwaters Chapter Izaak Walton
League of America
Kirtland Bird Club
Firelands Audubon Society
Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Black River Audubon Society
Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders
Akron Garden Club
Burroughs Nature Club
High Flight Arts and Letters

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
Shue Farms
Mirabella Took Creations
Yonder Star Christmas Shop, LLC
Juniata Valley Audubon Society
Wild for Salmon
LeatherStorm.com
Curly Tail Homebrew
Nature Abounds
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Adams County Democratic Committee
Wild For Salmon
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club
Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness
Planning

The Conservationist Wilderness Areas
Committee
American Canoe Association
Mennonite Church USA
Montessori Academy
High Rock Fisheries
Perpetual Motion NW
Braided River
Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
West Virginia University Sierra Student
Coalition
WV Chapter of Sierra Club
Inspired Citizen Advocates For The Murie
Legacy