

Dear President Obama,

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, we, the undersigned 77 Alaska businesses, ask you to work toward formal Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge. We urge you to take executive actions to give the Arctic Refuge the strongest protections available in order to pass this national treasure untouched onto future generations.

It is a misperception that all Alaskans support opening the Arctic Refuge to development. As Alaskans, we believe that protecting the Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain (also known as the 1002 Area) from oil and gas development is in the best interest of Alaska and the nation for the following reasons:

1) Protecting the Arctic Refuge is important ecologically and culturally. The Coastal Plain, with its spectacular diversity of wildlife, is the biological heart of the Arctic Refuge. Oil development would adversely affect the health of the Porcupine Caribou herd, which has been the foundation for the social, economic and spiritual fabric of the lives of the Gwich'in people for thousands of years. The calving and nursery grounds on the Coastal Plain are referred to by the Gwich'in as, "the sacred place where life begins." Allowing the Gwich'in to continue their way of life is their human right.

2) Oil and gas development and wilderness are not compatible. Despite technological advances in the oil industry, there continues to be an annual average of more than one spill a day on Alaska's North Slope, according to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. In addition, air pollution emissions are twice as high as those in Washington, D.C. We feel there is no way to safely develop the Arctic Refuge's biological heart, where millions of birds, polar bears, caribou and more begin their lives every year.

3) Tourism is vital to Alaska's economy and plays an important role in the health of Alaskan businesses. The majority of people visit Alaska because of its spectacular natural beauty and extraordinary wilderness character. Eco-tourism is a sustainable economy dependent on intact ecosystems with high wilderness values, and the Arctic Refuge is a prime example of wild Alaska. Oil development would have long-term negative consequences on tourism industries that rely on these wildlands for their sustainability. Already the oil field industrial sprawl on the North Slope, including drill sites, airports, roads, and gravel mines, has a direct "footprint" of 15,000 acres, but it actually spreads across an area of more than 640,000 acres, or 1,000 square miles, according to the National Academy of Sciences. The Arctic Refuge is the only remaining 5 percent of Alaska's North Slope that is legislatively closed to development.

4) We must pursue alternative ways to meet our energy needs in America Currently, the U.S. consumes nearly 19 million barrels of oil a day. The Arctic Refuge, at peak production of two to three years, could produce 780,000 barrels a day, which would be but a drop in the bucket. Furthermore, oil industry executives admit this oil would not be available to consumers for at least a decade. Increasing the fuel efficiency of our automobiles, developing alternative energy sources and adopting energy conservation technologies are quicker, safer and cleaner alternatives to opening the Arctic Refuge to oil and gas development. These measures are the only way to truly reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

For these reasons, we urge you, President Obama, to pursue executive actions to give the Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain stronger protections during this historic 50th anniversary year. We also encourage you to work with Congress to adopt wilderness legislation for the 1002 Area of the Arctic Refuge to forever protect this vital, beautiful place.

We look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

10th Planet Recording

Pat Fitzgerald and Robin Dale Ford
Fairbanks, Alaska

A.K. Trenholme

Arthur Trenholme, Ph.D. LLC, Psychologist
Kenai, Alaska

A Memorable Experience Bed and Breakfast

Donna & Kevin Maltz
Homer, Alaska

ABEC's Alaska Adventures, LLC

David Hamilton, Trip Coordinator
Fairbanks, Alaska

AK Adventures, Inc.

Dave Bachrach
Homer, Alaska

Alaska Alpine Adventures, LLC

Dan Oberlatz - Owner/Senior Guide
Anchorage, Alaska

Alaska Applied Sciences, Inc.

Bill Leighty and Nancy Waterman
Juneau, Alaska

Alaska's Borealis Adventures

Jon Korta
Galena, Alaska

Alaska Eco Adventures

Simyra Taback-Hlebechuk
Homer, Alaska

Alaska Hallo Bay Wilderness Camp

Clinton W Hlebechuk
Homer, Alaska

Alaska Internet Solutions

Keith Nyitray
Sitka, Alaska

Alaska Mountaineering School

Colby Coombs
Talkeetna, Alaska

Alaska Native Medical Center

Ken Gibb
Anchorage, Alaska

Alaska Nature Guides

Howard Carbone
Talkeetna, Alaska

Alaska Outdoors, LLC

Multi-Sport Adventure Tours
Mark Reiser
Wasilla, Alaska

Alaska Personal Journeys

Joe Jacob
Clam Gulch, Alaska

Alaska Photo Graphics

Patrick Endres
Fairbanks, Alaska

Alaska's Sadie Cove Wilderness Lodge

Randi Iverson - Co-Owner
In Kachemak Bay State Park
Homer, Alaska

Alaska Ultra Sport

Katharina Merchant, Business owner/guide
Chickaloon, Alaska

Alaska Wildland Adventures

Kirk Hoessle, President
Girdwood, Alaska

Alaskan Flower Essence Project

Steve Johnson
Homer, Alaska

Alaskan Tails of the Trail

Mary Shields
Fairbanks, Alaska

All About Adventure

Ron Yarnell (Owner/founder)
Fairbanks, Alaska

Anchorage Guest House

Andy Baker
Anchorage, Alaska

Animal Daycare & Boarding

April Warwick
Anchorage, Alaska

Arctic Treks

Carol Kasza & Jim Campbell
Fairbanks, Alaska

Arctic Wild LLC

Bill Mohrwinkel and Michael Wald
Fairbanks, Alaska

The Bake Shop

Stefanie and Michael Flynn
Girdwood, Alaska

Boreal Wilderness Alaska LLC

L. Frederick Dure CTC
McCarthy, Alaska

Caribou Enterprises

Debbie S. Miller, Author
Fairbanks, Alaska

Carol and Bruce Hazeltine

Self employed Alaskan Commercial fishermen
Anchorage, Alaska

Chatham Fish, Inc.

Marty Remund
Haines, Alaska

Chumbley Enterprises

Jim Chumbley
Fairbanks, Alaska

Cloud and Associates

Howard Cloud, President
Homer, Alaska

Cloudburst Productions

Russ Lyman
Haines, Alaska

Coyote Air

Dirk Nickisch and Danielle Tirrell
Coldfoot, Alaska

Crystal Images

Kathleen Menke
Haines, Alaska

Denali Brewing Company

Sassan Mossanen, General Manager
Talkeetna, Alaska

Denali Dreams

Janie Taylor and Barbara Marsh
Anchorage, Alaska

Equinox Wilderness Expeditions

Karen Jettmar
Anchorage, Alaska

Fairwinds Wildlife Services

Jeff Fair, Consulting Wildlife Biologist and Writer
Palmer, Alaska

Fishing Vessel Teasha

Laurie Mastrella
Port Alexander, Alaska

Fresh Sourdough Express Bakery and Cafe

Donna & Kevin Maltz
Homer, Alaska

Glacier Bay Sea Kayaks

Kara Berg
Gustavus, Alaska

Global Image Group

Ron Levy
Soldotna, Alaska

The Gustavus Inn

David & JoAnn Lesh
Gustavus, Alaska

Gustavus Marine Charters

Michael Nigro
Gustavus, Alaska

Habervision.com

Steve Haber, Founder, CEO
Homer, Alaska

Hitchcock Piano Studio

Sarah Hitchcock
Palmer, Alaska

Homer Real Estate

Angie Newby, CCIM, CRS
Homer, Alaska

Hugh Rose Photography

Hugh Rose
Fairbanks Alaska

Invisible World

Stuart Cohen
Juneau, Alaska

Juneau Flyfishing Goods

Brad Elfers
Juneau, Alaska

Kaktovik Arctic Adventures

Robert Thompson
Kaktovik, Alaska

Kodiak Island Brewing

Ben Millstein
Kodiak, Alaska

Loopy Lupine Recycled Products

Dale Banks
Homer, Alaska

The Magic Carpet

Mary Christensen
Fairbanks, Alaska

Mountain to Sea

Marilyn Scarborough
Anchorage, Alaska

The Observatory, ABAA

Dee Longenbaugh
Juneau, Alaska

Ouzel Expeditions, Inc.

Sharon Allred
Girdwood, Alaska

Pamela Thompson

Freelance Photographer
Anchorage, Alaska

Peter Brondz Pottery

Peter Brondz
Bird Creek, Alaska

Mariah Johnson

Qutekcak Native Tribe
Seward, Alaska

Rainbow Foods

Deirdre Holzweiler
Juneau, Alaska

Ravensong Digital

Josh Klauder
Talkeetna, Alaska

Ron Levy Worldwide Photography

Ron Levy
Soldotna, Alaska

Scientific Assessment Technologies, Inc.

David C. Raskin, Ph.D., President
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Sitka's Secrets

Beverly Minn
Sitka, Alaska

Sockeye Cycle Co.

Thomas Ely
Haines, Alaska

Turtle Island Records

Libby Roderick
Anchorage, Alaska

Ultimate Rivers

Rene & Amy Limeres
Chugiak Alaska

Wild North Photography

Tom Collopy and Mary Frische
Homer, Alaska

Wild Things Photography

John Hyde
Juneau, Alaska

Wilderness Birding Adventures

Bob Dittrick & Lisa Moorehead
Eagle River, Alaska

Wilderness Visions, Inc.

Ray Bulson
Eagle River, Alaska

Wildlife and Wood

Mary Zalar & Ken Whitten
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YourCleanEnergy LLC

Andy Baker
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