

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 26, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

America's Arctic is a place like none other in our nation. Providing meaningful and enduring protections to these iconic public lands will ensure these irreplaceable landscapes remain critical carbon sinks, premiere tourist destinations, unparalleled wildlife habitat, and a place where Indigenous traditions can continue for generations to come. It is for these reasons that we are encouraged and supportive of your announcement on September 6, 2023 to further protect key areas of America's Arctic, one of our planet's last remaining intact ecosystems.

On the first day of your Administration, you rightfully directed a review of the oil and gas leasing program for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) which was rushed through in the waning days of the Trump Administration. The Interior Department's review found numerous legal errors with that leasing program and directed a new analysis. We support your strengthened environmental review of the congressionally mandated oil and gas leasing program in the Refuge, including the release of the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) and canceling the unlawful Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority leases. As outlined in your recent announcement, oil and gas development on the fragile Coastal Plain would threaten sensitive species and the Gwich'in people's way of life. In the final SEIS and decision, we urge you to include considerations of the climate and ecological impacts from leasing in the Refuge and adopt the strongest possible protections for these exceptional public lands.

We also greatly appreciate your efforts to expand protections for more than 13 million acres of land in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (Reserve) in the Western Arctic, an area of critical environmental, climate, and cultural importance. However, the recent approval of the Willow Project highlights the critical need to safeguard the 2.5 million acres of sensitive habitat under existing leases, as well as the millions of additional acres still open to future leasing in the Reserve. As soon as this fall, your Administration will face key decisions on oil projects in the Reserve that could be 3 to 5 times bigger than Willow. In order to meet our nation's stated climate and conservation goals, it is critical that your Administration considers additional protective measures and takes proactive action to safeguard the Reserve from any planned developments, such as a westward expansion of Willow and the Peregrine Oil Project.

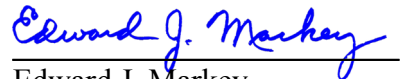
Mr. President, the rapidly warming Arctic is not only a harbinger of the looming climate crisis, its preservation is an essential element of our nation's climate and conservation goals. For there to be any hope of meeting Paris climate goals, the supply of fossil fuels must be curtailed—the International Energy Agency has said there should be no new investment in fossil fuel supply projects if the world is to successfully reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you to permanently protect these magnificent landscapes for the enduring benefits they provide people and the planet.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



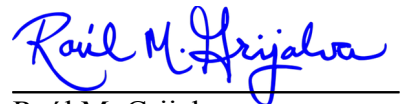
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



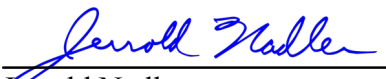
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



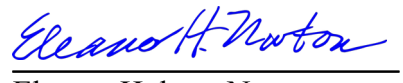
Summer Lee  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



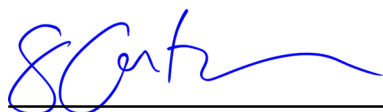
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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



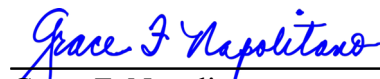
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress




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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



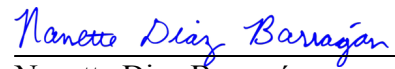
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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



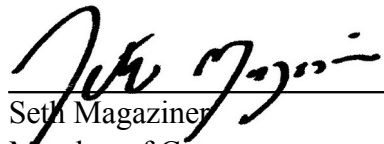
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Ed Case  
Member of Congress



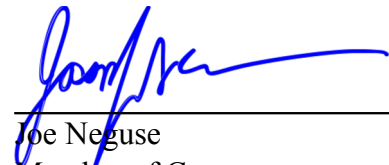
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Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress



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Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



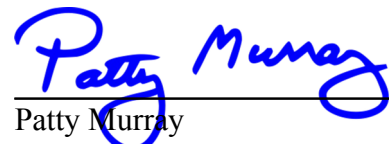
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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



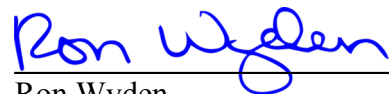
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Patty Murray  
United States Senator



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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



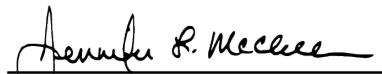
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



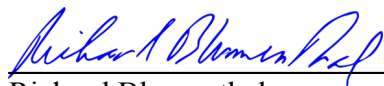
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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



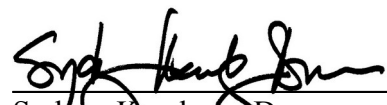
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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



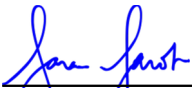
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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



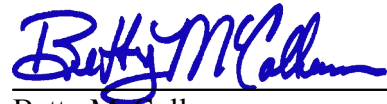
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



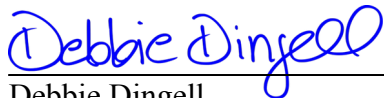
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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



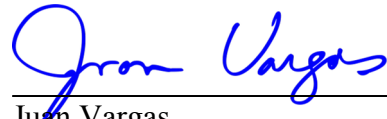
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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



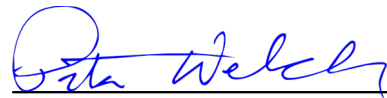
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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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David J. Trone  
Member of Congress



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Peter Welch  
United States Senator



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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



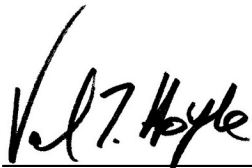
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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress

