



WRITING A LETTER OF CONCERN REGARDING OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARCTIC

Thank you for volunteering to write a letter to the Secretary of the Interior expressing your concern about oil and gas development in the Arctic. Your personal letter makes a big difference and will help Earthjustice continue its work preserving the magnificent places, wildlife, and culture of this region for future generations. Please feel free to include any of the main talking points below, as well as your own personal reasons for preserving the Arctic.

Please send your letter to the following address:

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

MAIN TALKING POINTS

- The Arctic is warming at least twice as fast as the rest of North America, and that, plus increasing oil, gas, and mining activity threaten the very survival of Arctic species and Native cultures.
- The Department of the Interior's first obligation with respect to the Arctic is to protect its ecosystems, wildlife and Native peoples for now and for future generations.
- The Arctic Ocean is the least known and least understood of all the world's oceans, and the Department of the Interior needs to launch or cooperate in a comprehensive research effort to better understand the Arctic before making any irrevocable commitments to off-shore oil and gas exploration and development in the Arctic.
- The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico demonstrates that industry nor the government have significantly underestimated the ability of industry or the

government to handle the blowout of an exploratory well. Handling a blowout in adverse Arctic conditions, far from major ports and supply centers, could be even more difficult.

- The Department of the Interior should be doing everything it can to allow Arctic species time to adapt to climate change free of other, additional threats to their habitat.
- The Obama administration and Interior Secretary Salazar needs to keep its commitment to the public to base future decisions regarding offshore oil and gas development based on sound science rather than political pressure.
- No offshore oil and gas activity in the Arctic beyond that already authorized should be permitted until the Secretary of the Interior has (1) reviewed the final recommendations of the President's commission on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and (2) reviewed the report of the United States Geological Survey to the Secretary Interior Secretary on gaps in scientific knowledge regarding Arctic coastal and marine ecosystems and resources and the risks imposed by oil and gas development.

To find out more about Earthjustice's work to protect the Arctic, visit www.earthjustice.org/arctic