

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 19, 2021

The Honorable Debra Haaland
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

We urge you to reverse course on defending the Willow Master Development Project (Willow Project). The Department of the Interior should rescind its approvals of Willow and reanalyze the project under the National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act to disclose its true impacts. We are concerned about the irreversible damage this oil development would have on our climate and the unique ecological and cultural values found on the North Slope.

This project was identified for review in President Biden's Day-One climate order. Interior's continued defense of this project in court does not align with the climate, environmental justice, and biodiversity goals set out by the White House and Interior. This project's projected emissions are counter to the international commitments this administration has made to constrain greenhouse emissions. To achieve the climate, biodiversity and environmental justice actions the Biden administration promised, the Department cannot allow new, large-scale oil and gas projects to move forward without disclosing and considering the anticipated harm. Indeed, the Trump administration's analysis of Willow's impacts has already been called into question by a federal appellate court, which resulted in the current pause on construction. We question why Interior has continued to defend Willow given this clear, court-ordered window of time to reevaluate the process used for approving the project.

Development of Willow poses a significant risk to our climate with the potential to produce 590 million barrels of oil, or 260 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions. Willow would result in the loss of irreplaceable ecological and cultural values in America's Arctic, and will further impact threatened polar bears. The proposed Willow Project would also directly impact the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area, an area that had been protected for decades because of its cultural significance and ecological importance as one of the most unique wetlands complexes in the circumpolar Arctic.

This administration has set bold goals for meaningful climate action and the protection of biodiversity. A new oil project of this scale is at odds with those efforts. At a minimum, Interior must ensure that any authorizations it defends comply with relevant environmental laws. The Department's approvals of Willow should be rescinded immediately. We urge you to honor your commitment in the Executive Order and at a minimum, promptly review the Trump

administration's approvals for Willow, and suspend any construction activities by ConocoPhillips in the interim.

Sincerely,

/s/ Martin Heinrich

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

/s/ Alan Lowenthal

Alan Lowenthal
United States Representative

/s/ Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

/s/ Patrick J. Leahy

Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator

/s/ Bernard Sanders

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

/s/ Cory A. Booker

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

/s/ Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

/s/ Raúl M. Grijalva

Raúl M. Grijalva
United States Representative

/s/ Jared Huffman

Jared Huffman
United States Representative

/s/ Rashida Tlaib

Rashida Tlaib
United States Representative

/s/ Lucille Roybal-Allard

Lucille Roybal-Allard
United States Representative

/s/ Eleanor Holmes Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton
United States Representative

/s/ Mondaire Jones

Mondaire Jones
United States Representative

/s/ Nydia M. Velázquez

Nydia M. Velázquez
United States Representative

/s/ Mark Takano

Mark Takano
United States Representative

/s/ Barbara Lee
Barbara Lee
United States Representative

/s/ Grace F. Napolitano
Grace F. Napolitano
United States Representative

/s/ Darren Soto
Darren Soto
United States Representative

/s/ Jan Schakowsky
Jan Schakowsky
United States Representative

/s/ Jerry McNerney
Jerry McNerney
United States Representative

/s/ Peter A. DeFazio
Peter A. DeFazio
United States Representative

/s/ Nanette Diaz Barragán
Nanette Diaz Barragán
United States Representative

/s/ Earl Blumenauer
Earl Blumenauer
United States Representative

/s/ Mike Thompson
Mike Thompson
United States Representative

/s/ Diana DeGette
Diana DeGette
United States Representative

/s/ Doris Matsui
Doris Matsui
United States Representative

/s/ Jesús G. "Chuy" Garcia
Jesús G. "Chuy" Garcia
United States Representative

/s/ Ro Khanna
Ro Khanna
United States Representative