It took three months to stop the gushing oil from the Deepwater Horizon blowout, despite generally fair weather, nearby ports and cleanup equipment, and a significant Coast Guard presence in the Gulf. You said then that safety standards and spill response capabilities would have to be greatly improved before offshore drilling could resume.

But now, with adequate safeguards still not established for working there, you’re on the brink of permitting Shell to drill in the U.S. Arctic Ocean, where there’s no Coast Guard presence and not even a major port for more than a thousand miles. Severely cold weather, shifting sea ice, and months of winter darkness could turn a spill here into a logistical nightmare — and an environmental disaster.

Set the SAFEGUARDS Americans expect before drilling in U.S. Arctic waters.