November 7, 2023

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

Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Deb Haaland 1849 C Street NW Washington, DC 2024

Dear President Biden, Secretary Haaland,

The undersigned 278 organizations, Indigenous entities, faith groups, and businesses would like to emphatically thank you for <u>canceling the</u> <u>last remaining oil and gas leases on the coastal plain of the Arctic</u> <u>National Wildlife Refuge</u> (refuge). This announcement is a historic win for America's Arctic and honors the rights of Indigenous People who have been working to protect their sacred lands in the Arctic Refuge for decades. We also thank this administration for taking steps to protect 13 million acres from oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (reserve). We celebrate these announcements and applaud the Biden administration for working to protect these irreplaceable landscapes and our climate future.

As we just experienced the <u>hottest summer in recorded human history</u>, and communities across the world are dealing with climate impacts like fires, drought, and flooding, we urge you to continue to make substantial progress on your climate and conservation goals while honoring your commitments to Native Nations and Indigenous communities. We call on you to now do more to meet the necessary threshold to protect America's Arctic. We submit the following reasons and recommendations in response to the comment periods on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain - DOI-BLM-AK-0000-2021-0006-EIS and the proposed regulations for the reserve. We are submitting these comments representing our many millions of members, customers, and supporters nationwide and internationally.

Both the refuge and reserve provide some of our nation's last remaining opportunities to take meaningful climate action, curb biodiversity loss, support Indigenous rights, and protect ecosystems on a landscape scale that are unparalleled in our nation.

Taking Climate Action and Curbing Biodiversity Loss

Oil and gas development in the Arctic causes irreversible destruction to a sacred landscape and critical habitat for wildlife while being <u>short-</u> <u>sighted</u>, <u>risky</u>, and unnecessary. It exacerbates climate change in an area that is already <u>ground zero for climate impacts</u> and warming <u>four</u> <u>times faster</u> than the rest of the world.

Horrifyingly, <u>Arctic sea ice is already melting a decade earlier than</u> <u>previously projected by scientists</u>, adding to sea-level rise globally and causing events like extreme rainfall, dangerous fire seasons, and heat waves. Additionally, science tells us that <u>worldwide biodiversity is</u> <u>deteriorating at a faster rate</u> than at any time in human history. In the Arctic, climate warming and biodiversity loss are more interconnected than any other place on Earth.

If we allow drilling to happen in the refuge, and expand drilling in the reserve, entire coastal villages will continue to erode into the sea, while the melting of permafrost will increasingly make infrastructure insecure or impossible to build or maintain, and food sources will disappear. Arctic permafrost also stores half of the organic carbon in the world's soils. More greenhouse gasses are emitted when it thaws, further heating the planet and putting pipelines, roads and other infrastructure at high risk of failure. Producing and burning Arctic oil accelerates climate change not just for Arctic communities, but for the world. Meanwhile, federal dollars are being spent to relocate villages sliding into the sea.

Chronic spills of oil and other toxic substances in addition to air, water, and noise pollution in the fragile tundra would <u>forever scar</u> this land while disrupting wildlife like caribou, polar bear, and countless migratory birds.

For example, a recently released long-term <u>study</u> of birds found <u>that</u> <u>nest survival for all bird types decreased significantly the closer those</u> <u>nests were to high-use oil field infrastructure</u>.

Indigenous Rights

America's Arctic is home to Indigenous people who have a spiritual and life-giving connection to millions of acres of culturally and biologically rich land that is largely untouched by industrial development. Any development in the region without the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples and local communities is a violation of their human rights.

Indigenous peoples' livelihoods, well-being, subsistence rights, and food sovereignty depend on the health of the Arctic, which includes the sea, land, and air. The Gwich'in and Iñupiat depend on the Arctic's ecosystem and its animals to sustain their communities, culture and way of life. Iñupiat communities rely on Arctic marine species for their diet and cultural practices. The Gwich'in are physically and spiritually linked to the Porcupine Caribou Herd, which has sustained them for millennia. The caribou are born on the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge, which is sacred land that must be protected for future caribou populations to thrive and keep the ecosystem in balance. To the Gwich'in, the coastal plain is "lizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit," the "Sacred Place Where Life Begins."

The administration can support Indigenous-led conservation models that would promote sustainable land management by recognizing and including Indigenous Knowledge and stewardship, fostering collaboration between stakeholders, and inviting and implementing recommendations and feedback from Indigenous communities on decision-making processes.

Lack of Corporate Interest

Banks, insurance companies, and even oil and gas companies know that the reputational, environmental, climate, and economic costs of drilling in the Arctic are not worth the risk.

Twenty insurers and 29 major financial institutions have restricted support for financing or insuring oil and gas drilling in the Arctic Refuge. This list includes five of Canada's largest banks along with the U.S. six largest: Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo. These financial institutions recognize the risks and the reputational consequences they would face if they were to support the violation of Indigenous peoples' human rights and such an important ecosystem.

The 2021 lease sale proved to be <u>a dismal failure</u>, raising less than \$10 million toward the \$1.8 billion projected in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that opened the refuge's coastal plain to oil drilling. In 2022, two of the three entities voluntarily relinquished their leases and, recently, the final leases on the coastal plain were canceled by your administration, citing serious legal areas in the first sale's environmental analysis as grounds for the move.

Additionally, Chevron and Hilcorp, companies that spent tens of millions of dollars over decades to hold undeveloped leases on private lands within the refuge's boundaries, <u>terminated their</u> leases and paid \$10 million in compensation to the Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation to walk away. Similarly, in April of 2023, <u>ExxonMobil informed shareholders</u> in a proxy statement that the company has no plans for new oil and gas exploration or development in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

All that said, it only takes one company to decide to pursue Arctic Refuge leases for damage to occur. A prime example of such a company is the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, a state-owned corporation that showed up and bid during the first lease sale. This entity is known for <u>gambling on highly risky extractive</u> <u>projects</u>, despite insurance companies, banks and even oil corporations agreeing that drilling the Arctic Refuge makes no sense.

Widespread Support to Protect America's Arctic

The Arctic is a national treasure, and we have a moral obligation to protect it.

The Refuge: The Arctic Refuge was set aside for protection decades ago because of the critical ecological value it holds. Prior to 2017, it was always off limits to oil and gas development, and it should be permanently protected.

After a lengthy scientific review that incorporated public input, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended in 2015 that most of the nondesignated wilderness lands in the Arctic Refuge be designated wilderness. The agency received nearly a million public comments in support of this action, including from scientists, biologists, and researchers. The Arctic Refuge is simply too important to drill.

Generations of American voters have opposed drilling in the Arctic Refuge, and we must protect it for future generations to come.

The Reserve: At approximately 23 million acres, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska in the Western Arctic make up the largest single unit of public land in America—bigger than 10 Yellowstone National Parks. Under the area's Integrated Activity Plan, nearly half of the reserve's lands are set aside for special protection in designated "<u>Special Areas</u>." Thousands of acres of the reserve have already been leased and developed, including the area leased to Conoco-Phillips for the "Willow Project."

As you saw recently with the six million letters and 2.3 million comments submitted opposing BLM's approval of the Willow Project in Alaska's Western Arctic, organizations and young Americans are <u>strongly</u> <u>engaged</u> with the reality of the climate crisis and urging your administration to do something about it.

The voices opposing the Willow Project will support protection for the entire reserve and oppose future development projects in the area. This project, in the climate-stressed Alaskan Arctic, is a massive and far-reaching oil and gas drilling project that has locked in at least three

decades of Arctic fossil fuel development – more than 280 million metric tons of greenhouse gasses over its projected 30-year lifespan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: We oppose all oil and gas activities on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We stand with the Gwich'in Nation and support Gwich'in efforts to protect their human rights and food security by protecting the coastal plain.

Although the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement has made some improvements to protect the Arctic Refuge, more needs to be done to protect this sacred landscape and ensure compliance with the law. For instance, the draft SEIS does not acknowledge the impacts development would have to Gwich'in subsistence resources, and there has been insufficient study into polar bear and caribou impacts. We urge the Biden administration to adopt strong measures to prevent impacts on subsistence for local communities, fragmenting of the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, and adverse effects on threatened polar bears from oil and gas activities.

The Department of the Interior must protect the coastal plain and its resources as it considers a leasing program. The revised leasing program must provide the highest level of protection for the biodiversity and cultural resources of the coastal plain and include a robust assessment of the climate impacts of leasing and its compatibility with U.S. climate goals. We believe that a robust, scientific review will show that oil and gas activities on the coastal plain will have unavoidable destructive impacts on Arctic Refuge wildlife habitat and on the climate, threatening the food security of the Gwich'in and Iñupiat peoples. Simply put, the coastal plain is no place for oil and gas activities. We remain dedicated to ensuring that none ever occurs and ask that you work with Congress to repeal the Tax Act's leasing program.

Finalizing a highly protective program, and working to restore protections will also ensure space to co-create long-term, Indigenousled conservation for the coastal plain. **NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE-ALASKA:** We applaud the Biden administration's plans to strengthen protections for designated Special Areas through the proposed rules. To meet the challenge of the day, we urge the administration to take further action.

- 1. The Biden administration should expand existing Special Areas and adopt new ones to build even greater protections for the entire Western Arctic. The existing Special Areas encompass numerous areas that are important for caribou, birds, subsistence, and other values, but there are additional areas in the reserve deserving of protection. The Biden administration should expand the scope of the rules to ensure that the protections for Special Areas extend beyond just the boundaries of those areas and address the potential impacts of harmful oil and gas development throughout the reserve. The administration should also close the loopholes in the rules that could undermine protections by allowing for infrastructure and other development that is contrary to the purposes for protecting those areas in the first place.
- 2. The Biden administration should deal with the urgent problem of the 4.6 billion barrels of oil from existing leases that will jeopardize our nation's climate commitments for **decades to come.** Actions to protect and expand Special Areas are no longer enough; we urge you to take action that addresses leased lands as well. Only protecting special areas or unleased lands will not prevent the sprawl of industrialization already unlocked by the Willow Project. Other prospects stretch across the reserve, including in sensitive habitats within Special Areas. They represent a significant threat to this region and its people and will only exacerbate the climate crisis. Your administration can take bold action to preserve the rich biodiversity of this region, to honor our global climate commitments, and to safeguard subsistence resources for Alaska Native communities who have relied on these lands, waters, and wildlife to support their way of life for millennia.

3. We urge you to swiftly develop an approach to oil and gas permitting that aligns with climate imperatives. As a first step, we recommend that your administration do a comprehensive assessment of the compatibility of the reserve's oil and gas program with U.S. climate commitments. While the assessment of Arctic oil extraction and impacts takes place, your administration should not lock in approval of any further Arctic exploration or development projects. Embracing this opportunity is vital for the future of America's Arctic.

The long-term environmental and climate impacts of Willow alone will include degraded air quality and harm to subsistence resources for communities in the region as it produces tens of millions of barrels of oil per year from about 250 wells over the project's predicted three-decade lifespan. The resulting infrastructure of roads, bridges and pipelines are expected to facilitate even more development that would worsen climate change.

In addition to adding more than 280 million metric tons of CO2 to the atmosphere, Willow is expected to spur even more oil projects. That is a daunting prospect because the Western Arctic contains a volume of fossil fuels that if burned would equal more than twice the carbon emissions of burning all the oil that the Keystone XL pipeline would have carried over its 50-year lifespan.

These actions, along with consideration of additional long-term protective actions for both the refuge and reserve, would align with and expand on the exceptional climate achievements that your administration has accomplished to date.

We encourage the Biden administration to continue to take hold of the tremendous opportunity in America's Arctic to protect tens of millions of acres of unparalleled biological and cultural resources, which will significantly contribute to your America the Beautiful goals and leverage the critical role that the Arctic, along with all our public lands, must play in addressing the climate crisis. Protecting America's Arctic will demonstrate that the United States lives up to its commitment as a

participant in the international Arctic Council: to mitigate climate disruption and help safeguard the life, health, and wellbeing of Arctic Indigenous communities.

Sincerely,

- 1. 198 methods, Vermont
- 2. 2 K Enterprises, Colorado
- 3. 350.org, International
- 4. 350 Hawaii, Hawaii
- 5. 350 Juneau, Alaska
- 6. 350 New Orleans, Louisiana
- 7. 350 Seattle, Washington
- 8. 350 Silicon Valley, California
- 9. 350 Vermont, Vermont
- 10. 7 Directions of Service, North Carolina
- 11. A Community Voice, Louisiana
- 12. Acadia Center, Maine
- 13. ACORN International, Louisiana
- 14. Adrian Dominican Sisters, Portfolio Advisory Board, Michigan
- 15. Audubon Alaska, Alaska
- 16. Advocates for the Environment, California
- 17. AFGE Local 704, Illinois
- 18. AK Adventures, Inc., Alaska
- 19. Alaska Applied Sciences, Inc., Alaska
- 20. Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Alaska
- 21. Alaska Soles, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Alaska
- 22. Alaska Wilderness League, Washington, D.C.
- 23. All About Adventure, Alaska
- 24. Alpacka Raft, Colorado
- 25. Alternatives North, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada
- 26. American Packrafting Association, Montana
- 27. Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc., Massachusetts
- 28. Anthropocene Alliance, Florida
- 29. Arctic Audubon Society, Alaska

- 30. Augustina's Winery, Colorado
- 31. Azul, California
- 32. Backbone Media, Colorado
- 33. Benicians for a Safe and Healthy Community, California
- 34. Beyond Mead Compliance, Oregon
- 35. Big Agnes, Colorado
- 36. Black Hills Clean Water Alliance, South Dakota
- 37. Blue Crab Strategies, Tennessee
- 38. Braided River, Washington
- 39. Bret Webster Images LLC, Utah
- 40. Brown Folks Fishing, California
- 41. Boulders Climbing Gym, Wisconsin
- 42. Californians for Western Wilderness, California
- 43. CASE Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood, Colorado
- 44. Cass County Izaak Walton League of America, Minnesota
- 45. Chequamegon Audubon Society, Wisconsin
- 46. Cherokee Forest Voices, Tennessee
- 47. Chicago Bird Alliance, Illinois
- 48. Clean Energy Action, Colorado
- 49. Clean Yield Asset Management, Vermont
- 50. Climate Action Campaign, Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, California
- 51. Climate Hawks Vote, California
- 52. Climate Law & Policy Project, Maryland
- 53. Coalition to Protect America's National Parks, Washington, D.C.
- 54. Coalition to Protect New York, New York
- 55. Colin Tyler Photography, Alaska
- 56. Communist Party USA, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn Club, California
- 57. Community for Sustainable Energy, Colorado
- 58. Conatus Counsel, Colorado
- 59. Concerned Citizens of St. John, Louisiana
- 60. Concerned Health Professionals of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania
- 61. Congregation of St. Joseph, West Virginia
- 62. Connecticut Citizen Action Group, Connecticut
- 63. Conservation Communications, Colorado
- 64. Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Colorado
- 65. Coyote Graphics, Maine
- 66. CPAWS Yukon, Canada

- 67. Creation Justice Ministries, Washington, D.C.
- 68. Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise, Missouri
- 69. Defenders of Wildlife, Alaska
- 70. Detroit Audubon, Michigan
- 71. Deuter USA, Colorado
- 72. Devil's Foot Beverage Company, North Carolina
- 73. Dillon Rose, Oklahoma
- 74. Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, New York
- 75. Don't Waste Arizona, Arizona
- 76. Doubleclick Productions, Washington
- 77. Durango Compost Company, Colorado
- 78. Durango Outdoor Exchange, Colorado
- 79. Earth Care, New Mexico
- 80. Earth Ethics, Inc., Florida
- 81. Earth Path Sanctuary LLC.Connecticut
- 82. Earthjustice, Washington, D.C.
- 83. EcoFlight, Colorado
- 84. Eco-Justice Collaborative, Illinois
- 85. Eco-Stylist, Texas
- 86. Education Through Engagement, LLC, Oregon
- 87. EGG350.org, Illinois
- 88. Elders Climate Action, Massachusetts
- 89. Elevenate Inc., Oregon
- 90. Empower Our Future, Colorado
- 91. Endangered Species Coalition, Washington, D.C.
- 92. Energy 21 LTD, New York
- 93. Environment America, Colorado
- 94. Environment New Jersey, New Jersey
- 95. Environment Texas, Texas
- 96. Environment Virginia, Virginia
- 97. Environment Washington, Washington
- 98. Environmental Protection Information Center- EPIC, California
- 99. Extinction Rebellion Houston, Texas
- 100. Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition, Alaska
- 101. Families for a Livable Climate, Montana
- 102. Figure 8 Investment Strategies, Idaho
- 103. Firestarter Interactive LLC, Connecticut
- 104. Fishpond, Colorado

105.Florida for Good, Florida

106. Fossil Fuel Divest Harvard, Massachusetts

107.Freeport Wild Bird Supply, Maine

108. Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, Alaska

109.FreshWater Accountability Project, Ohio

110. Fridays for Future Orange County, California

111. Friends of the Earth, Washington, D.C.

112.Friends of the Lost Coast, California

113. Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, Maine

114.Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, Georgia

115.Glenn Randall Writing & Photography, Colorado

116.Good Energy, Alabama

117.Good Neighbor Steering Committee of Benicia, California

118. Grain Surfboards, Maine

119. Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate Coalition, Louisiana

120.Green Way Energy, LLC, North Dakota

121.Greenfaith SoCO (Southern Colorado), Colorado

122.GreenLatinos, Utah

123.Gulf Coast Creation Care, Alabama

124. Healthy Ocean Coalition, Maine

125.HI Travel Tales, California

126. Hispanic Access Foundation, Washington, D.C.

127.Idle No More SF Bay, California

128. Inclusive Louisiana, Louisiana

129. Indiana Division Izaak Walton League of America, Indiana

130.Interfaith Power & Light, Washington, D.C.

131.International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute, California

132. Ixia Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society, Florida

133. Jewish Congregation of New Paltz, Green Committee, New York

134.Kahtoola, Inc., Arizona

135.Kelp Movement LLC, Connecticut

136.Kids for Saving Earth, Maryland

137.Kneading Change, Illinois

138.Knight Architect LLC, Maine

139.Lady Lawyer Foundation, Italy

140.Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety and Environment, Colorado

141.Laughing Whitefish Bird Alliance, Michigan

142.Leaf Out Nature Guides, Alaska 143.League of Conservation Voters, Washington, D.C. 144 Legacy Vacation Resorts, Florida 145.Live To Play, LLC, Washington 146.Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network (LiKEN), Kentucky 147.Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy, California 148.Los Jardines institute, New Mexico 149. Louisiana League of Conscious Voters, Louisiana 150.Madhvi4EcoEthics, Colorado 151.Mahoosuc Guide Service, Maine 152.Maine Passive House, Maine 153.Malach Consulting, Utah 154.Mazaska Talks, Washington 155.Materia Films, Texas 156.McGurn Media, Washington 157.Mercy Investment Services, Inc., Missouri 158.MiiR, Washington 159. Mountain Shadow Adventures LLC, New Hampshire 160.Mountain Sports Flagstaff, Arizona 161.My Bougie Bottle, California 162.Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club, New York 163.Native Womens Wilderness, Michigan 164.Nature Books, Alaska 165.Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition, Nevada 166.New Energy Economy, New Mexico 167.North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE), New York 168.North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light, North Carolina 169.North Carolina Council of Churches, North Carolina 170.Northern Arizona Audubon Society, Arizona 171.NTS Group, Colorado 172. Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS), Illinois 173. Omni Center for Peace Justice & Ecology, Arkansas 174.Oregon Pack Works, Oregon 175.Oregonizers, Oregon 176.Outdoorsense, Maine 177.Pacific Environment, Alaska 178.Patagonia, Nevada

179. Peace and Freedom Party, on the California ballot, California 180.Penn Environmental Group, Pennsylvania 181. Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania 182.Presente.org, California 183. Progressives for Climate, Colorado 184. Project Coyote, California 185. Protect Our Winters, Washington, D. C. 186. Pueblo Action Alliance, New Mexico 187. Public Lands Conservancy, California 188. Putnam Progressives, New York 189. Rachel Carson Council, Maryland 190. Rainforest Action Network, California 191.Ravenstone Tiles, Washington 192. Region VI Coalition for Responsible Investment, Ohio 193. Resource Renewal Institute, California 194.RESTORE: The North Woods, Massachusetts 195. Revolution House Media, Montana 196 Rise Up WV, West Virginia 197.Rocky Mountain Wild, Colorado 198.Ruffwear, Oregon 199.Salt Palm Development, Florida 200.San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council, Colorado 201.Santa Fe Forest Coalition, New Mexico 202. Seeding Sovereignty, New York 203.Seek Outside, Colorado 204. Selkirk Conservation Alliance, Idaho 205. Seventh Generation, Colorado 206. Sierra Club Foundation, Washington, D.C. 207. Sisters of Mary Reparatrix, Michigan 208. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team, Maryland 209. Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York, New York 210.Small Horizons, Arizona 211.Small World Adventures, Colorado 212.Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, Oregon 213.South Seattle Climate Action Network, Washington 214. Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Alaska 215. Southwest Indiana Sierra Club Network, Indiana 216.Spirit of the Sun, Colorado

- 217.St. Andrew's Episcopal Church; campus ministries at SUNY New Paltz and Ulster, New York
- 218.St. Olaf Environmental Coalition, Minnesota
- 219.Stand.earth, Washington
- 220.Stoney Point Farm, Missouri
- 221.Suffer Better, Colorado
- 222.Sunflower Alliance, California
- 223.Sunrise Movement, California
- 224.Susan's Salon, Colorado
- 225.Sustainable Advisors Alliance LLC, Oklahoma
- 226.Sustainable Earth Advocates, Inc., Minnesota
- 227. Sustaining Way, South Carolina
- 228. Tali Elohi, North Carolina
- 229. Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Tennessee
- 230. Terra Advocati, Texas
- 231. Teton Backcountry Guides, Wyoming
- 232. The Amber Wave, New York
- 233. The Christian Council of Delmarva, Maryland and Delaware
- 234.The Climate Reality Project, Western New York Chapter, New York
- 235. The Conservation Fund, Alaska
- 236. The Episcopal Church (DFMS), New York
- 237. The Mountain Pact, Colorado
- 238. The Ocean Project, Rhode Island
- 239. The Outdoor Biz Podcast, California
- 240. The People's Justice Council, Alabama
- 241. The Wilderness Society, Washington, D.C.
- 242. The Writers Block Bookstore and Cafe, Alaska
- 243.Tim Peterson Photography LLC, Colorado
- 244. Timberline Events LLC, Colorado
- 245. Tiny Design Studio, New York
- 246. Tó Nizhóní Ání, Arizona
- 247. Trustees for Alaska, Alaska
- 248.Tuleyome, California
- 249.Turtle Island Restoration Network, Texas
- 250.Ulster Activists, New York
- 251. Under Solen Media, Oregon
- 252. Unitarian Universalist Church of Utica, New York

253. Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community, Iowa 254. Unite North Metro Denver, Colorado 255.Ute Mountaineer, Colorado 256.Vote Climate, Minnesota 257. Wall of Women, Colorado 258. Washington University in St. Louis Green Action, Missouri 259.Waterspirit, New Jersey 260.Western Rivers Flyfisher, Utah 261. Wild Imagination Photography, Alaska 262. WildEarth Guardians, Washington 263.WildEarthVisions, Colorado 264. Wilderness Watch, Montana 265. Wildlife Adventures, North Dakota 266. Wildwater River Guides, Washington 267. Winter Wildlands Alliance, Montana 268.Womxn From The Mountain, Colorado 269.Woodstock Fisheries LLC, Alaska 270.words & photographs by Stephen Trimble, Utah 271.World Wildlife Fund, Alaska 272. Yoga for Health Education, LLC, Michigan 273. Yonder Star Christmas Shop, LLC, Pennsylvania 274. Youth United for Climate Crisis Action, New Mexico 275.Zeal Optics, Colorado 276.Zero Hour, Washington, D.C. 277.Zimmer Environmental Improvement LLC, Minnesota 278.Zumbro Valley Audubon, Minnesota

Cc:

- Laura Daniel-Davis, Deputy Secretary of the Interior of the United States
- Shannon Estenoz, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
- Martha Williams, Director Fish and Wildlife Service
- Nada Culver, Deputy Director of Policy and Programs, Bureau of Land Management
- Steve Cohn, Alaska State Director, Bureau of Land Management

Merben Cebrian, Arctic Refuge Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service