The Willow oil and gas project in Alaska is a terrible plan which purports to extract 590 million barrels of oil and gas over 30 years. This region is home to indigenous tribes of the Inupiat who rely on the food sources such as caribou to sustain their lives and culture. These tribes do not have local grocery stores, but, rather, rely on fishing and hunting for their sustenance. The traditional practices and health of the Indigenous communities would also be negatively impacted by the project. Because the proposed design would be several times larger than nearby oil-drilling operations, the proposal would cause irreversible disruptions to the wildlife there. These homelands are pristine ecosystems which provide habitat for polar bears, migratory birds, and other iconic species.

In approving the project, the BLM ignored the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in addressing climate change. The agency also provided unsupported and inaccurate greenhouse gas emissions estimates. Alaska’s climate is warming more than twice as fast as the rest of the US, and extraction of gas and oil is the largest cause. Projects such as the Willow project further disrupt Arctic ecosystems and exacerbate sea-level rise, glacial melt, and permafrost thaw. New findings further suggest evidence of large sink-holes, increasing the rate of thawing of the permafrost.

I urge you to put an immediate stop to this disastrous plan and support green energy proposals instead.