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AK Rep. Dean Westlake,  
Chair, House Arctic Pol., Ec. Dev., & Tour. Committee,  
Vice-Chair, House Resources Committee,  
State Capitol (Room 24)  
Juneau, AK 99801

January 26, 2017

Dear Representative Westlake,

I would be very grateful if you could include this letter as **public testimony for Bill HJR 5**; I am unable to visit a LIO in person.

I strongly oppose the opening of the '1002 study area' of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to petroleum exploration. While I do understand the central role of oil in the history and finances of Alaska, my reasons for objecting to this Bill are threefold:

1. I believe it is now catastrophically irresponsible to seek and open new petroleum reserves, anywhere on the planet. Evidence is now overwhelming that our existing **carbon emissions are destabilizing our planet's climate**, and that the time-lag between carbon emission and climate effect means that carbon released today will continue to have an impact for several decades. We can expect increasing disruption to agriculture, water resources, coastal infrastructure, and can expect major social and political ramifications which will be felt even here in Alaska. Let us not throw more fuel on the fire. This concern does not ignore the fact that our civilization is built on oil and oil products, but I believe we must, and *will be able to*, move to alternative energy sources and alternative materials. Alaska needs to be a part of this challenging shift, and not rely on yesterday's economic models.
2. I have had the good fortune to see some of the world outside the US, and have seen the heavy and inexorable impact of human population and development on most of the world's natural places. I believe the existence of **wild places is a powerful public good**, and one that is being lost rapidly. Our grandchildren will miss it. There are very few places that are as un-impacted as the Arctic Refuge. It is shortsighted to destroy the wild nature of the Refuge, even if only a small (but integral) part of it.
3. There is no way that oil development will not have an impact on **caribou migrations**, even if great pains are taken to work in winter and minimize pipeline infrastructure. The caribou are part of the wild character of the Refuge, but are also a vital food resource for some Alaskan Natives, and they are understandably worried about the sustainability of this resource.

Thank you for considering these concerns of mine. I know that issues of job creation and financial recovery are important to you and to most Alaskans. They are also important to me, and I believe that they can be addressed without developing new oil fields in the Arctic Refuge.

Yours sincerely,



Campbell Webb