

HJR 12
Public Testimony Packet
Received by the
House Resources Committee
as of March 10, 2021 at 1PM

I for sure support leasing on ANWR coastal plain. Have visited the area and observed how remote and barren the place is. Very obvious that no harm will come to animals in the area and will be a good thing for everyone that will benefit from the jobs and activity that will be created.

Marilyn Schwantes

Alaska voter since 1952

I am an AK resident and I vote at every opportunity. AK has been my home for 68 years. I have hiked, camped, and travelled by water and air extensively in ANWR, including near Kaktovik.

The Arctic Refuge must receive enduring protected status.

I support the Gwich'in and Iñupiat land protectors and many other Alaskans who oppose extraction in the Arctic Refuge.

We need to leave the oil in the ground, and focus on clean energy solutions and economic diversification. We must take responsible action to address the climate crisis.

I strongly oppose HJR 12.

Wendy Elsner
Ester AK 99725

As an Alaskan since 1964 I oppose Bill HUR 12. The Arctic Wildlife Refuge is one of the fewer and fewer places where our world can begin to heal from the injuries of Big Business and Oil Development's rape that is leading to a speedy change in our climate and consequent destruction of fisheries resources, and inundation of coastal areas and people's livelihood there. All Nature is intertwined, and permitting second-rate oil companies to devastate areas of the wildlife refuge is short-sighted and disruptive to wildlife, especially polar bears, caribou and nesting birds. These are the obviously injured, but in future it will be your own grandchildren who feel the impact of this development.

Please do not let HUR 12 pass.

Thank you,
Helen Howard
Fairbanks Alaska 99709

Representatives Carpenter and Vance and colleagues

I write to oppose HJR12.

As a physician concerned with the health of Alaskans, and Kenai Peninsula residents in particular, I am increasingly concerned about the effects of climate change on human health. Wildfires, coastal erosion, warming oceans all contribute to increased risk of heart and lung disease and food insecurity. Alaskans suffer the effects of the warming climate at approximately twice the rate of residents in the Lower 48 states.

Now, as the adverse effects of a warming climate are increasingly clear, and the race to net zero emissions becomes increasingly urgent, it is not the time to pursue new oil and gas development. As the failure to secure any bids on the January lease sale in the Arctic Refuge makes clear, the industry is not eager to develop these resources due to the high risk. This is not the time to commit additional state funds to failed lease efforts. In this season of increased awareness of the disproportionate burden that climate change places on indigenous communities, attention to the voices of Gwich'in and Iñupiat opposing irreversible damage to their traditional lands is indicated.

Instead of endorsing failed development plans in the Arctic Refuge coastal plain, Alaska should use the opportunity to leverage federal recovery dollars to accelerate the transition to clean energy jobs to help Alaskans take advantage of the rapidly growing jobs sector.

I urge you and your colleagues to look to the future rather than the past.

Kristin M Mitchell, MD FACP (She/Her)

Kenai

To Members of the House Resources Committee:

I am a resident of Fairbanks and I ask you to oppose HJR 12. I have traveled to the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge and appreciate its unique wilderness character. Since much of the North Slope is already available for oil/natural gas exploration and extraction, and because the coastal plain is much narrower in the Arctic Refuge (making it more environmentally sensitive) than in areas to the west of it, I ask you to oppose HJR 12.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Jeff Walters
Fairbanks

Please support the HJR12. We have valuable resources in our state to help the economy. In times like today we need this more than ever before. Please allow ANWR to be leased.

Kari Arno
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Resources Committee

I have hiked and paddled across the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge several times. It is a magical place of undisturbed natural beauty. I am an Alaskan and have been so for over 40 years. I oppose HJR 12. Thank you for all your work for the betterment of Alaska.

Stan Justice

Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

To Members of the House Resources Committee,

I raise my voice in opposition to HJR 12 which expresses support for recent lease sales, urges permitting in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and asks President Biden to defend the 2020 Record of Decision approving the Leasing Program.

When bidding on the leases occurred, NO major oil companies showed up indicating their lack of interest in exploration on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Major oil companies are pivoting toward renewable energy sources as part of their business plans.

Major banks have announced they will not finance exploration programs in the Arctic Refuge. This, too, reflects a change in national priorities.

Needlessly pursuing exploitation of the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge disrespects the interests of Gwich'in and Inupiat Alaskans whose voices have long been ignored. Development of the coastal plain would contribute to the climate crisis and ignores the need for the United States to embrace the future of renewable energy sources.

More than ever, exploiting the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge for oil extraction is not in the best interest of our State, our residents, or the United States.

Sincerely,

Mary Zalar

Fairbanks AK 99709

To whom it may concern,

As a concerned resident of Alaska, I would like to reject HJR12. HJR 12 ignores the multitude of voices opposed to extraction on the Arctic Refuge coastal plain. Among those voices are Gwich'in and Inupiat land protectors. The Gwich'in have a sacred relationship with the

Porcupine Caribou herd, who rely on the coastal plain for survival. Many Alaskans, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, oppose extraction in the Arctic Refuge, and all voices should be considered.

No major oil companies participated in the January 6, 2021 lease sale in the Arctic Refuge. Every big oil corporation knew this was a fiscal and reputational risk, so they didn't show up and the state of Alaska, via AIDEA, stepped in. AIDEA bid on the majority of the lease tracts, costing the state over \$9.1 mill in lease bids plus \$3.7 mill in annual rental fees (50% will be returned to the state). With Presidential opposition to development, ongoing litigation due to problems with the federal Environmental Impact Statement process, limited to no industry interest, and annual costs to the state in the millions of dollars, passing HJR12 makes no sense.

HJR 12 claims that the state will "ensure the health of the Central Arctic and Porcupine caribou herds," but science shows that migration would be hugely impacted by oil extraction on the Arctic Refuge coastal plain. The Central Arctic herd, which many people report seeing around industry infrastructure on the North Slope, has indeed changed its movements and behaviors to avoid roads and pipelines, especially during the calving season ([Johnson, et al, 2019](#)). The geography of the coastal plain in the Refuge leaves fewer options for an adapted migration than elsewhere in the north, meaning pregnant Porcupine cows would be extra vulnerable. The Porcupine herd is the only Arctic Alaska herd that hasn't seen a decline in population in recent years--its calving grounds must remain protected.

For these reasons and many, many more, I urge Representatives to reject HJR12 and continue protection over ANWR.

Thank you,

Caitlin Cunningham of Anchorage, AK

To the members of the House Resources Committee,

I have lived in Fairbanks since 1958, that is sixty-three years. I oppose the passage of HJR12. Many, many Americans are intrigued by Alaska. The reasons vary widely, but for a large number it is the wide-open spaces. A similar reason brought the pioneers west in the nineteenth century. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is another such draw. This time it is mainly to enjoy the beauty and the wildlife, but even more to savor the unspoiled vastness of the place. This environment does not favor American family living. Much better to retain its glory untouched by damaging and polluting activities.

If you agree that Climate Change is happening, you must also agree that fossil fuels are contributing to the change. We must switch to energy production that does not produce the emissions that are causing catastrophic weather events all over the globe. These are very visible within the United States and seem to be worsening. Recovery from these disasters is extremely costly. The old adage says prevention is better than the recovery.

You must also acknowledge that the biggest banks in the country have ended their investment into Arctic activity because of the risk to the planet. Please listen to these strong voices.

The Gwitch'in people are united and strong in their opposition to oil and gas exploration in the 1002 region of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I have heard them speak. They are passionate in their defense of the wildlife in the area as well as the pristine environment supporting their subsistence way

of life. Their livelihood comes from the Porcupine Caribou herd that calves in the 1002 area. These caribou must have the use of the coastal plain of the Refuge in order to maintain the health and growth of their herd.

Each of you, representatives of Alaskans, must stand strong in defense of the future of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I hope you will join your constituents and oppose HJR12.

Mary Ann Nickles

Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Representatives,

Please do not pass HJR12.

As an Alaskan living in a house in Fairbanks on permafrost, the climate crisis is a real threat, not only to me, but worldwide. Looking at the long term, economic development for our state would be better served by pursuing in other forms of energy rather than coastal plain oil.

Thank you for listening,

Martha Baldrige

Dear members of the House resources committee,

I am writing today to urge you not to endorse HJR 12, oil and gas lease sales in the Arctic Coastal Plain. I have owned and operated a guiding and outfitting service for 25 years in Alaska and have visited the Coastal Plain countless times. The fragile and world class wilderness and wildlife of the coastal Plain should remain off limits to oil exploration. Oil extraction and the lease sales have proven to be highly unpopular by the American public. No major oil companies have participated in the January sale. The Porcupine Caribou herd, important to the Gwich'en people of the area, are part of an ecosystem that exists in very few places in the world, an intact migrating wild herd in a complete unaltered ecosystem. This is not something that can be replaced once gone. We also are experiencing a global climate crisis and now is not the time to support fossil fuel consumption.

As an Alaskan, a business owner, a person who frequently visits the Alaska arctic and the Coastal plain, I urge you to see the value inherent in protecting our states very unique and special places. Please do not endorse the oil and gas lease sales in the coastal plain of Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration,

Juliette Boselli

Denali Park, Alaska

Dear House Resources Committee,

Please do not pass HJR 12.

-HJR12 ignores the multitude of voices opposed to extraction on the Arctic Refuge coastal plain. Among those voices are Gwich'in and Iñupiat land protectors. The Gwich'in have a sacred relationship with the Porcupine Caribou herd, who rely on the coastal plain for survival. Many Alaskans, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, oppose extraction in the Arctic Refuge, and all voices should be considered.

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-Arctic oil extraction would contribute to the climate crisis by adding carbon pollution to the Earth's atmosphere. This is simply not a risk we can afford to take based on the existing climate crisis, which is affecting Alaska and the Arctic at disproportionate rates. This resolution comes at a time when Alaska should be focusing on clean energy solutions and economic diversification, not beginning new extraction projects. It's time to get serious about our collective responsibilities to address the climate crisis. It makes little economic or environmental sense for the state to promote and invest public funds in the quest to find new sources of oil and gas, when it's obvious that a large percentage of existing oil and gas reserves should not be produced.

Thank you.

Lizzie Solger

Juneau, AK 99801