

Ed King

From: Austin Ahmasuk [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 11:31 AM
To: House Resources
Cc: Senate Resources
Subject: Opposing comments to Willow project, and HJR6

To Whom it May concern,

My name is Austin Ahmasuk I am originally from Nome, and now split my time between Nome and Palmer. I am writing to give thoughtful and meaningful input on the Willow Project. Because this project and its political consequences have bearing on development elsewhere in Alaska I am compelled to speak up for public resources, and public trust. If HJR6 were approved the oil and gas industry will have successfully obtained government advocacy for private enterprise. HJR6 essentially amounts to a subsidy of the oil and gas industry giving multinational oil and gas companies the means to sway public opinion despite dissenting local opinion. Because this resource rich part Alaska was taken from Alaska Native people but who maintain some ownership within the development footprint it is essential to listen to local people. Because those lands were taken from Alaska Native people and are now in the hands of the federal government, wealthy multinational oil and gas companies are given the means to enjoy immense profit even if they destroy ecosystems. If HJR6 were approved it would set yet another precedent whereby state government bends over backwards to support multinational oil and gas companies.

Alaska and the federal government do not have the highest environmental standards and neither government listens very well to local people nor does either government give local and rural people full consideration. Under the Drilling, Abandonment, Plugging, and Production Practice regulations both the state and federal government allow for numerous regulatory waivers that endanger communities, or there are regulatory loopholes that have meant oil spills occur. Support for willow is not reasonable considering the failure of both state and federal regulations to mitigate impacts from large oil and gas development.

Unchecked, unmitigated and the “drill it mine it kill it” mentality that exists in Alaska will have devastating consequences that could last for generations. We have a wonderful opportunity to preserve the beauty and life of Alaska for future generations and to listen to the people of the region. I have read many of the 25+ public meeting documents listed on BLM’s eplanning website and gone through hundreds of pages of public dialogue. One thing is clear, even local support is measured with caution and reasonable concern.

The Willow Oil and Gas Project would have a significant negative impact on the environment, with much of the land near the project site being sensitive habitat for wildlife species that local people have identified as important. Indigenous people rely on these habitats for a way of life and the impact to these ecosystems could be devastating.

It is reasonable to expect the project will lead to air and water pollution as has already occurred with the previous spills. The north slope of Alaska has already documented cumulative air quality impacts, and environmental mistakes that could have profound effects on the health of human communities, both in terms of physical health impacts as well as mental wellbeing.

The financial costs associated with this project could be significant and could even outweigh any potential benefits. If a disaster were to occur this would place an additional strain on public services that may already be stretched due to limited government funding.

The financial incentives promised by the project are not guaranteed and might not outweigh any potential long-term economic costs. This could result in taxpayers having to foot the bill for any future clean up, as well as greater financial pressures to deal with costs and impacts to local communities.

Land degradation WILL occur (*Willow Development Plan, ROP A-10; Section 3.2.3; Section 3.4.2.3.1; Section 3.8.1; Section 3.8.2.1.4; Section; 3.9.2.3.4*) and if it were coupled with multiple wellhead, or material handling disasters at one time the impact from pollution of local ecosystems could be far-reaching, both in terms of life on the land and potentially also for other regions that are dependent on the same ecosystems.

As with many development projects like this the jobs are likely to go to workers and contractors from outside Alaska and local labor is made to suffer economic inequality. I am not convinced the state or federal government values rural Alaskans access to wealth. This could lead to a displacement of traditional subsistence practices, putting Indigenous populations and their way of life at risk.

There are large financial incentives promised by the project. But at what long-term economic costs.? After reviewing public meeting after public meeting it seems apparent the BLM has not fully considered local alternative planning. HJR6 sets yet another dangerous precedent whereby government intrudes into private multi national oil and gas enterprise. Oil and gas developers should bear the burden of proving benefit not the State of Alaska.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Austin Ahmasuk
Nome and Palmer, Alaska 99762 and 99645

Ed King

From: Walter Chapman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 12:23 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Willow Project

To Mr. Chair and the committee,

My name is Walter Chapman and I'm an Alaska resident speaking for myself. Please do not support the Willow Project. The negative impact on the environment and the people of Alaska will be grave and lasting while the benefits would be small and short lived. The natural resources of Alaska are already being impacted by fossil fuel driven climate change at a rapid rate. Conoco Phillips Willow project is not supported by many Alaskans including communities adjacent to the area. Gas and oil development in Alaska needs to end to protect our invaluable environment.

Thanks, Walter Chapman

[REDACTED]
Anchorage AK 99507

Ed King

From: john sonin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 2:44 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: H.J.Res. 6 & and Carbon Captur

At a time when drought and climate change are causing alarmingly low freshwater levels in the Western U.S. ...in Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, and around the Globe, but certainly so in any of these modern man-made desert oases (Arizona's Phoenix, Tuscan, or Nevada's Las Vegas, Reno, ...etc. etc.), while sharing what little replenishing rain available with toxic holding ponds or with plastic infused nano-bead contaminate-pollution, contributing disruption to our entire hydrological cycle, the Willow Project and its Green House gases are a carbon and methane BOMB the sanction of which is not only the antithesis of smart water management in this age of OUR human terraforming expansion, but is a condemnation of life's quality for our children. So, with humanity as the preeminent resource allocating agent of Earth, it is our responsibility, as an accountable voice of its reason, to administer equitably those *gifts* to ourselves' and future generations. Privatizing for personal profit any of these 'commons' is tantamount to selling-our-soul for immediate gain and will only be facilitating further, an already "imbalanced" disruption, manifested most often with violence, of an erratic reality assuring certain discontent for our children. Also, if we hope to reconcileq this dissarray, insure a lengthier time to its resolution, a point at which OUR short-circuited, planetary polarity is re-neutralized. Literally, we are the global players using the energy of Earth on a banker's borrowing scheme that is not reciprocating the energy we borrow at a rate that sustains the climate/ecological balance now, nor will it assuage at all for our children, until we begin attending to that loan! The most oxymoronic aspect of this project is its pristine placement in tundra pinioned by permafrost assured to hasten the ecological disruption as it thaws releasing the more potent heat-trapping gas, methane. Methane is the most potent of Greenhouses gases and though less long-lasting as carbon, it's compounds collect most intensively at the poles where the 'amplifying' impacts are speeding the dissolution of our polar icecaps; which are most imperative in sustaining our livable world! Greenhouse gas emissions must be a critical metric in any evaluation of a project with a 30-year life of climate impacts. As FERC has frequently acknowledged in environmental documents it has prepared for pipeline projects, that climate change has already begun to—and will increasingly—have significant environmental and health impacts. In the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 2021 report, it identified the need to make “strong, rapid and sustained reductions” to methane emissions, citing its role as a key driver in climate change. It's past time our capital financed, cultural ethos require, nay demand, costs of energy in every form when accounting for costs of business overhead - that is to be inclusive of ALL recognizable costs; institutional and scientific.

John Stephenson Sonin

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Douglas, AK 99824
[REDACTED]

Good afternoon. My name is Mike Tobin. I live in Juneau, and I am speaking in opposition to HJR 6.

Though our federal delegation and many native leaders have come out in favor of the Willow Project, that does not change the fact that Conoco Phillips' products, oil and gas, are toxic to the climate, both locally and worldwide, or the fact that the Willow project will make global heating worse. I thank the Sovereign Inupiat for a Living Arctic for sharing their information on this issue. Here are my top 5 reasons to vote against HJR 6:

1. Shishmaref
2. Shaktoolik
3. Kivalina
4. Golovin
5. Newtok

On the flip side of the Juneau Empire article on February 15 touting the support for this resolution is an article entitled "UN chief: Rising seas risk 'death sentence' for some nations." So if you need more reasons to vote against this resolution, how about New Orleans, New York, Los Angeles, the Solomon Islands, the Maldives. Need more? How about salmon, permafrost, healthy boreal forests and glaciers?

The International Energy Agency, no enemy of the fossil fuel industry, has stated that there is so much fossil fuel already discovered and developed that no new fossil fuel infrastructure can be developed if we want a chance of a stable climate.

Since the discovery and development of the oilfields of Prudhoe Bay, tremendous technological progress has been made in the field of renewable energy. The future of Alaska must lie in renewable energy. A 30 year commitment to fossil energy is taking Alaska in the wrong direction. Please vote no HJR 6.

Ed King

From: Andrea [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 10:22 AM
To: House Resources
Cc: Rep. Genevieve Mina
Subject: NAT'L PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA

I am writing to encourage the committee members to vote NO on bill HJR6 and not support the Willow Project. This project will unnecessarily lock us into 30+ years of oil development when we should be focusing on transitioning our economy away from extractive development. The people of Nuiqsut should not have to suffer the health consequences that often comes with this kind of development.

Andrea Feniger

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99508 in Representative Mina's district.