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JUNE 16, 2022

CEOs urge thorough and comprehensive environmental review of massive oil-drilling proposal in Alaska's Arctic

ConocoPhillips' Willow project would undermine Biden administration's climate and biodiversity goals, and devastate lands and waters vital to Arctic life

Washington, D.C. — CEOs from 18 climate, conservation and Indigenous groups representing millions of people across the country have urged Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland to conduct a thorough and comprehensive review of the ConocoPhillips' Willow proposal in Alaska, emphasizing that political and industry pressure to meet corporate timelines should not lead to a rushed environmental analysis.

CEOs noted the huge scale of the project: “No single oil and gas project has more potential to set back your administration's climate and public lands protection goals than the Willow Project.”

Their [letter to Sec. Haaland](#) made several key points about the project and its enormous impact on Alaska's Arctic and the climate crisis:

- Willow is the single largest oil extraction project proposed on federal lands
- A recent study by the the Center for American Progress found that Willow would erase any climate benefits achieved by the administration's renewable energy commitments for public lands and waters
- The Willow project would give ConocoPhillips a master hub from which to further industrialize the region with profoundly devastating impacts on climate, people and animals

In March, thawing permafrost played a part in a methane leak at ConocoPhillips' Alpine field, raising more questions about the implications climate change would have on Willow's design and environmental impacts, presenting yet another concern about the project proposal that demands deep analysis and thorough review.

Nonetheless, the federal Bureau of Land Management is moving quickly toward a new permitting decision for Willow, stating that it intends to address only a limited range of

problems identified by the Alaska District Court in response to two lawsuits that resulted in the court finding that BLM broke the law in its prior analysis.

In other words, BLM plans to do a narrow supplemental environmental impact statement rather than a robust assessment of the proposal's on-the-ground implications to biodiversity, climate, and Arctic health — impacts that were ignored by the Trump Administration in its previous, illegal authorization of this project.

CEOs stressed in their letter to Sec. Haaland the importance of ensuring that the administration meets its commitments to science, meaningful climate action, and protecting public lands and the subsistence rights of local communities.

CEOs from the following groups signed the letter:

Trustees for Alaska
Friends of the Earth
Sierra Club
Conservation Lands Foundation
Evergreen Action
The Wilderness Society
Alaska Wilderness League
Sovereign Iñupiat for a Living Arctic
Environment America
Earthjustice
Environmental Action
Protect Our Winters
Defenders of Wildlife
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Greenpeace USA
National Audubon Society
Native Movement
League of Conservation Voters

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