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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Conservation groups to Zinke: no Arctic Refuge oil and gas activity

WASHINGTON – Eighteen conservation organizations sent a letter to Interior Zinke today to oppose any oil and gas activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and its sensitive Coastal Plain.

Excerpts from the letter:

“...we write to express our opposition to the direction in your recent Secretarial Order to plan an update the oil and gas assessment for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.”

“Oil and gas activities, including seismic exploration, are at odds with the values and resources that the Coastal Plain was set aside to protect and contrary to the overwhelming public support for protecting the Coastal Plain.”

“In 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed the planning process for the Arctic Refuge’s Comprehensive Conservation Plan...During that process, more than 600,000 comments were submitted in support of protecting the Coastal Plain — 96% of all of the comments received. Alaska Natives, Alaskans, scientists, outdoor recreationists, veterans, and faith leaders all spoke out in favor of permanently protecting the Coastal Plain.”

“In the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Congress prohibited oil and gas activities on the Coastal Plain with the exception of a single, time-limited exploration program completed in the 1980s. ANILCA currently prohibits all oil and gas activities, including seismic exploration, on the Coastal Plain.”

[Link to the full letter here.](#)

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