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Trump's siege on America's Arctic continues

(Washington) Today, President Donald Trump and his administration announced a draft plan that could open America's Arctic Ocean to future leasing and oil drilling. The new plan includes leasing in the Arctic Ocean, 125 million acres of which President Obama moved to protect in 2015 and 2016 as ecologically sensitive marine environments.

Statement from Adam Kolton, Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League:

"Is there no place in America's Arctic that the Trump administration doesn't want to see drilled? Trump just signed legislation opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to development and his administration offered up half of the western Arctic in a single lease sale. Now the Trump administration wants to open the entirety of the Arctic Ocean to dangerous drilling.

It is beyond ridiculous that President Trump opposes windmills because he believes they would disrupt the views from his Scotland golf course, but isn't remotely concerned about the presence of oil rigs in vital habitat for polar bears, whales and seals or the impact of oil spills on Alaska's coastal communities.

Oil drilling is inherently risky. It is not a question of whether we will spill, but when. The Deepwater Horizon and Exxon Valdez spills have proven that there is no such thing as effective clean up; once oil has been spilled, the battle has been lost. The federal government—by its own estimate—has said that there is up to a 75 percent risk of a major spill if drilling were to move forward in the Chukchi Sea in Alaska's Arctic waters."

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