



June 18, 2018

Secretary Ryan Zinke
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

As companies that make and sell products for recreating in the outdoors, we stand united in our opposition to efforts to open the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling. The Arctic Refuge is among the most extraordinary landscapes in our public domain. It is a vast and remote wilderness, bursting with biodiversity and framed by the awe-inspiring Brooks Mountain Range, that belongs to all Americans and should be safeguarded within our public lands heritage. As businesses, employers, and Americans, we understand that our public lands, especially the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, are worth far more than the natural resources that lie beneath them.

The Arctic Refuge was set aside 50 years ago for its “wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values.” Those recreational values serve as the backbone of the United States' growing outdoor recreation economy. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, growth in the outdoor recreation industry continues to outpace growth of the economy as a whole, and accounts for more than two percent of the entire United States GDP. According to a study conducted by the Outdoor Industry Association our industry generates \$887 billion in annual consumer spending and supports 7.6 million jobs. In Alaska, the outdoor recreation economy generates \$7.3 billion annually in consumer spending and supports 72,000 direct jobs. At a time when Alaska's economy is facing a recession, these numbers continue to grow. Threats to places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are threats to our industry.

The Arctic Refuge is home to the Porcupine Caribou Herd, musk oxen, wolves, and polar bears. Over 200 species of migratory birds stop in the Refuge to eat, molt, and nest during their journeys to and from six continents and all 50 states. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge offers solitude and pristine exploration. For more than fifty years our country has remained committed to protecting this singular landscape. To diminish such a place through oil and gas drilling would have serious impacts on our thriving outdoor recreation economy and on all of the Americans that passionately believe in the intrinsic and incomparable value of our shared public lands.

Signed,



John Sterling
Executive Director
The Conservation Alliance



Kathleen Martin
Chief Executive Officer
BOCO Gear



Keely Wachs
Director of Company Affairs
Clif Bar & Company



Jack Schniepp
Owner
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Tyler LaMotte
Chief Marketing Officer
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Seth Cobb
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Director Environmental
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Chief Executive Officer
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Lisa Issenberg
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Jared Kennedy
Chief Operations Officer
Outdoor Project

outdoor project



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