

# FOIA MARKER

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**OA/ID Number:** 11102

**FolderID:**

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**Folder Title:**

ANWR [Arctic National Wildlife Refuge]

**Stack:**

**S**

**Row:**

**94**

**Section:**

**3**

**Shelf:**

**10**

**Position:**

**1**

**Press Guidance**  
**February 29, 1996**

**ANWR**

**Background:** The President yesterday met with the Alaska Congressional Delegation: Senator Frank Murkowski, Senator Ted Stevens and Representative Don Young. In addition to discussing issues of mutual interest such as salmon and the Everglades -- the Delegation asked the President to reconsider his opposition to opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to drilling. While the President did not agree to reconsider, some of Senator Murkowski's comments were misconstrued by reporters as indication that the POTUS might be open to such a change.

- The President had a cordial meeting with the Alaska Delegation. He listened politely and carefully to their concerns. He did not indicate any willingness to change his standing on the ANWR, nor has he changed position.
- The President is opposed to drilling in ANWR. His position on this issue has been clear since the campaign.
- Most recently (10/26/95), the President wrote Senator Joseph Lieberman outlining his views on the issue. In the letter he stated, "I will veto any reconciliation bill that opens ANWR to drilling.....this is one of the most significant environmental votes facing Congress, posing a clear choice between protecting unique, biologically-rich wilderness and pursuing a misguided energy policy." (See attached)
- His opposition to drilling in this invaluable refuge is consistent with his commitment to preserve places of natural beauty and ecological importance so that we can pass America's splendor to our children.

Drafted by April Mellody  
Approved Brian Johnson, CEQ

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 26, 1995

Dear Joe:

Thank you for your letter today seeking my views on striking the provision in the reconciliation bill that would open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas drilling.

Because you stated that the Senate is expected to vote on that motion in the near future, let me be clear: I will veto any reconciliation bill that opens ANWR to drilling. Consequently, I strongly support your and your colleagues' efforts to remove this provision from the bill. In my view, this is one of the most significant environmental votes facing Congress, posing a clear choice between protecting a unique, biologically-rich wilderness and pursuing a misguided energy policy.

I appreciate and support your efforts to preserve ANWR.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

September 21, 1995

Honorable Don Young  
Chairman  
Committee on Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to alert you that, if Congress sends the President a reconciliation bill that includes language to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas drilling, he will veto the bill. Let me explain why.

President Clinton and his senior advisors have stated many times that we should prohibit oil drilling in this biologically-rich wilderness and work instead to protect its coastal plain, while ensuring that Native Americans can use these lands for traditional hunting and fishing. Opening this coastal plain to oil and gas development would impact these pristine lands in several adverse ways: bringing in exploratory drilling and construction activities; building and staffing permanent operating facilities; and constructing and operating a pipeline to connect to the TransAlaska Pipeline System. Each stage would bring physical disturbances of the area, risks of oil spills and pollution, and long-term damage that would impair wildlife for decades or centuries.

The Refuge is the last protected fragment of Alaska's Arctic Slope, comprising a pristine, unique ecosystem that is home to hundreds of plant and animal species. It contains 18 major rivers and is home to 36 species of land mammals, nine marine mammal species, and over 30 fish species. This area is also the most important calving area for the international porcupine caribou herd. Studies have shown, for example, that opening this area to oil and gas development would lead to serious threats to the caribou herd and to its habitat in the coastal plain. Those impacts would potentially violate a 1987 joint U.S.-Canada agreement to protect the porcupine caribou, its habitat and the native peoples who depend on the herd to live and maintain their cultural heritage.

The President has considered the full range of options to protect the Refuge from oil and gas drilling, and believes this action at this time is the most effective step that can be taken to preserve this unique area. At the same time, he remains committed to working with Congress to provide permanent protection for the Refuge.

Sincerely,

Alice M. Rivlin  
Director

Identical letters sent to Honorable George Miller,  
Honorable Frank Murkowski and Honorable J. Bennett Johnston



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

MAY 23 1995

Honorable William V. Roth, Jr.  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Roth,

You have asked for a clarification of the Administration's views regarding oil and gas development of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The Administration strongly opposes oil and gas exploration and development on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. President Clinton articulated this position during his 1992 Presidential campaign.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the only conservation unit that protects, in an undisturbed condition, a complete spectrum of the Arctic ecosystems in North America. The coastal plain is the most biologically productive part of the refuge for wildlife and is the center of wildlife activity. The wildlife and wilderness values of the coastal plain constitute a unique and irreplaceable resource for our nation and for all future generations of Americans. Exploration for and development of oil and gas is not compatible with these unique wildlife and wilderness resources.

In broader terms, this Administration has been and will continue to be supportive of the development of domestic U.S. oil and gas resources. As you are aware, under current law, virtually the entire Alaska north slope is available for such development, with the exception of the 110-mile coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

For these reasons, the President and I strongly oppose including revenues in the budget resolution based on oil and gas leasing within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. B. Bush" or similar, written in a cursive style.