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To Whom It May Concern:

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I am a citizen who cares about protecting America's Arctic and am writing regarding the proposed amendment to the oil and gas leasing plan for the northeast section of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (the Reserve). I strongly believe that, at the very least, you should adopt Alternative A, the no action alternative. Although I believe you should go beyond Alternative A by providing the essential protections needed to maintain the area's extraordinary wildlife values.

002  
Birds

The Reserve is the largest expanse of federally protected public lands left in the United States. I am very concerned about the preferred plan's emphasis on further development and the affect that this plan will have, not only on the abundant wildlife that lives year-round in the Reserve, but also on the migratory wildlife from my region and around the world that rely on the Reserve as its critical molting, staging, and breeding area. The larger ramifications of disturbing this critical habit area need to seriously be considered and defended.

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Rather than looking to drill in this region, the U.S. needs to come develop an energy policy that balances our growing demand for energy with our need to ensure the environmental soundness of our world in the future. We continue to put off the inevitable need to develop alternative energy sources by looking for short term answers which create other long term problems. I believe permanent protections should be put in place for the areas of most significant habitat, including the Teshekpuk Lake and the Coleville River Special Areas, to ensure that the area's critical wildlife will be available for generations to come and the government make a serious effort to come up with a long term, sustainable energy plan.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Danielson