



Office of the Mayor

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CONSENT CALENDAR
December 3, 2019

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín, and Councilmembers Sophie Hahn, Susan Wengraf, and Cheryl Davila

Subject: Reaffirming the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Resolution

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution reaffirming Berkeley's position as supporting the preservation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and refrain the City from conducting business with companies that purchases, leases, or develops oil fields within the Refuge.

BACKGROUND

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, located in the northeast corner of Alaska, is the largest national wildlife refuge in the country, covering over 30,000 square miles (for comparison, the nine-county Bay Area covers an area just under 7,000 square miles). It is home to a wide array of wildlife, including 37 species of land mammals, 42 fish species, eight marine mammal species, and over 200 migratory and resident bird species. Many of these are endangered and are at risk from climate change. Founded in 1960, the Refuge serves as a crucial sanctuary for this wildlife. The Refuge is also home to the Gwich'in people, who depend on the land for their livelihood.

Oil drilling is allowed in parts of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but only under the authorization of Congress. A provision in the December 2017 tax bill approved by Congress and signed into law by the President allowed for oil drilling along 1.5 million acres of the coastal areas of the Refuge. While the House passed H.R. 1146 – the Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act, to ban oil drilling in the area, this bill is currently stalled in the Senate. The Department of the Interior intends to conduct lease sales in the Refuge by the end of 2019, paving the way for major oil drilling operations.

On November 4, 2019, the United States formally began the process of leaving the Paris Agreement, which will take twelve months to complete. The Agreement, in which the United States will become the only country in the world to be a non-signatory, is seen as a critical step to prevent global temperatures rising above 2C from pre-industrial levels, with the goal of keeping levels below 1.5C. Reaching 2C would result in cataclysmic and irreversible damage to Earth's climate. The Arctic region is considered one of the most vulnerable areas in the world when it comes to the impacts of climate change. This is in part due to the feedback loop created by melting ice. Ice has a high albedo, meaning it reflects sunlight back into space. Less ice means more energy is absorbed by the Arctic Ocean, creating warmer temperatures that accelerates

further ice melt. Drilling in the Arctic will release significant amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, which will further accelerate warming in the region.

On September 10, 2002, the City Council approved an item introduced by Councilmember Dona Spring that referred the City Manager to require the City from refraining from knowingly purchasing goods or services from a company that purchases leases or develops oil fields in the Refuge (Attachment 2). Under the City's Investment Policy, it has divested from publically traded fossil fuel companies, citing the City's responsibility to protect the lives and livelihoods of its inhabitants from the threat of climate change.

Given recent political decisions on the federal level to move forward with Arctic oil drilling and defiance of environmental regulations, along with the precarious condition the Arctic is in, it is essential to reaffirm the actions the City Council took in 2002.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Preservation of the Arctic is vital in reducing the impacts of climate change.

CONTACT PERSON

Mayor Jesse Arreguin 510-981-7100

Attachments:

1: Resolution

2: September 10, 2002 Council Item on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

REAFFIRMING THE ARCTIC WILDLIFE NATIONAL REFUGE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the coastal plain of the Arctic Wildlife National Refuge is a pristine, unique and fragile ecosystem, home to some of the most spectacular wildlife in the United States, and one of the last remaining such places on the planet; and

WHEREAS, the Arctic Refuge is sacred to the Gwich'in people, who have lived near the area for almost a thousand generations, and depend on the Porcupine Caribou herd for food, clothing, and as a link to their traditional culture; and

WHEREAS, oil drilling in the Refuge is allowed only under authorization of Congress, which was provided in a provision in the December 2017 tax bill approved by Congress and signed into law by the President, allowing for drilling along 1.5 million acres of coastal area; and

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior is expected to conduct lease sales in the Refuge by the end of 2019, paving the way for major oil drilling operations, despite the same Department under previous administrations warning that drilling in the Arctic Refuge would irreparably harm the Porcupine caribou herd, and therefore the Gwich'in way of life; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has turned its back on environmental regulations, most notably beginning the process of withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, which is seen as an essential part of preventing runaway climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Arctic is in a precarious condition, being more vulnerable to climate change than other regions on the planet, due in part to the feedback loop created by melting ice that creates further warming, allowing for more ice melt; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the risk of oil spills and leaks, drilling produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas, which will further accelerate warming in the region; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Americans oppose opening the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge for oil and gas drilling, as do the Gwich'in; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley believes that it is irresponsible for a corporation to pursue drilling in one of the last remaining wild places in the United States and to threaten the rights of the Gwich'in; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley wishes to spend its citizen's tax dollars in a manner that is socially and environmentally responsible; and

WHEREAS, in September 2002, the Berkeley City Council approved an item that referred the City Manager to require the City from refraining from knowingly purchasing goods or services from a company that purchases leases or develops oil fields in the Refuge; and

WHEREAS, under the City's Investment Policy, it has divested from publically traded fossil fuel companies, citing the City's responsibility to protect the lives and livelihoods of its inhabitants from the threat of climate change.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it hereby reaffirms its commitment to not knowingly purchase goods or services from corporations that purchase leases or develop oil fields in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

REVISED CONSENT CALENDAR

Date:

7-16-02

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Dona Spring

Subject: THE ARCTIC WILDLIFE REFUGE RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council 1) refer to the City Manager a selective purchasing resolution requiring the City of Berkeley to refrain from knowingly purchasing goods or services from a company that purchase leases or develops oil fields in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; 2) request that the City Manager write a letter to the head of the four company's that want to drill in the refuge informing them of the City Council's opposition to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and 3) send a letter to Berkeley's federal elected officials urging them to support the Arctic Refuge Wilderness Bill and designate the coastal plain as a protected wilderness area.

BACKGROUND: At the July 23rd meeting one Council member thought this resolution was no longer needed but US PIRG says it is needed. Please see attached letter and resolution from the Public Interest Research Group (National Association of State PIRG). This referral would ask that the City Manager evaluate the possibility of the City of Berkeley boycotting the four major oil companies who have expressed a desire to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Those companies are: BP Amoco, Chevron, Phillips Petroleum Company, ExxonMobil. The City of Berkeley apparently does not purchase gas from any of these companies. The attached resolution would return with the City Manager's report regarding this selective purchasing request.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: NONE

CONTACT PERSON: Councilmember Dona Spring 981 7140

-----Original Message-----

From: Erin Milfeit [mailto:emilfeit@vt.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, August 07, 2002 10:47 AM
To: Spring, Dona
Subject: ANWR Resolution (letter also faxed)

August 7, 2002

Dear Ms. Spring,

I'm writing this letter in response to your message last week. You stated that at the Berkeley City Council meeting held last Tuesday, another councilperson made the comment that the Arctic National Wildlife Drilling a "moot" issue, that Congress has decided that there would be no drilling allowed in the Arctic Refuge, and as a result, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Resolution is being held over until September. Let me provide you with an explanation as to why this resolution is important to protecting the Arctic Refuge.

Last summer, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill as part of the House energy plan that would open the coastal plain to oil drilling. But on April 18, 2002, the Senate defeated - 54 to 46 - Senator Murkowski's amendment to the Senate energy bill allowing drilling in the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge. While the Senate vote was a huge victory for the Arctic Wilderness Campaign, in no way does it mean our battle is over.

A House - Senate conference committee has been appointed to reconcile the two energy bills. Since the House did include Arctic drilling, we cannot rule out the possibility that the House Conferees could push for it to be put on the final bill. Senator Tom Daschle has said that the Senate will not accept an energy bill that includes drilling in the Refuge. But there are a number of reasons to be concerned and continue our efforts to protect the Arctic Refuge because a number of things could occur that could result with Arctic drilling on the final energy bill.

The main point is that even if the resulting energy bill is passed and Arctic drilling is left out, this region is still vulnerable from being opened to

drilling in the future. This is why Representatives Ed Markey (D-Mass) and Nancy Johnson (R-Conn) and Senator Joe Lieberman (D-Conn) introduced the 2001 Arctic Wilderness Act. The Senate (S 411) and the (HR 1239) Arctic Wilderness Bill's would permanently protect the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge from any future attempts to open it for drilling. We are pushing for support to pass these bills. Until that happens, the Arctic Refuge will continue to remain vulnerable to the oil industry.

When it is all said and done, the Arctic Wilderness is not a moot issue. It will not be a moot issue until Congress passes a bill to permanently protect it with a wilderness designation. By passing the ANWR Resolution, cities and counties will be sending a message to the oil industry- BP, ExxonMobil, Chevron Texaco, and Philips Petroleum- to stop pressuring Congress and the Administration to open the region. In addition, it sends a message to Congress and the Administration that the American people, those whom they represent, want to see it protected. This is why passing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Resolution is important.

I hope this clears up any questions you had. Please keep in touch in regards to your efforts to pass this resolution. We will keep you updated on our progress.

Sincerely,

Erin Milfeit
U.S. PIRG

CONSENT CALENDAR

Date: 7-16-02

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Members of the City Council

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Subject: THE ARCTIC WILDLIFE REFUGE RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council 1) refer to the City Manager a selective purchasing resolution requiring the City of Berkeley to refrain from knowingly purchasing goods or services from a company that purchase leases or develops oil fields in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; 2) request that the City Manager write a letter to the head of the four company's that want to drill in the refuge informing them of the City Council's opposition to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and 3) send a letter to Berkeley's federal elected officials urging them to support the Arctic Refuge Wilderness Bill and designate the coastal plain as a protected wilderness area.

BACKGROUND: Please see attached letter and resolution from the Public Interest Research Group (National Association of State PIRG). This referral would ask that the City Manager evaluate the possibility of the City of Berkeley boycotting the four major oil companies who have expressed a desire to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Those companies are: BP Amoco, Chevron, Phillips Petroleum Company, ExxonMobil. The City of Berkeley may already boycott some of these companies. The attached resolution would return with the City Manager's report regarding this selective purchasing request.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: NONE

CONTACT PERSON: Councilmember Dona Spring 981 7140

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Resolution

WHEREAS, the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a pristine, unique and fragile ecosystem, home to some of the most spectacular wildlife in the United States, and one of the last remaining such places on the planet; and

WHEREAS, the Arctic Refuge is sacred to the Gwich'in people, who have lived near the area for almost a thousand generations, and depend on the Porcupine Caribou herd for food, clothing, and as a link to their traditional culture; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Interior has concluded that drilling in the Arctic Refuge would irreparably harm the Porcupine caribou herd, and therefore the Gwich'in way of life; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Geological Survey estimates that the Arctic Refuge contains less than six months worth of economically recoverable oil, yet using the oil companies' real-world investment criteria it appears that no oil can profitably be recovered; and

WHEREAS, former CIA Director R. James Woolsey testified that Arctic Refuge oil is too vulnerable to be pursued; and

WHEREAS, oil spills and leaks will continue to occur regardless of improvements in technology, and the Arctic Refuge can not withstand the damage that would result from oil and gas drilling; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the American people to protect and preserve such rare treasures for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Americans oppose opening the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge for oil and gas drilling, as do the Gwich'in; and

WHEREAS, the {city/county} believes that it is irresponsible for a corporation to pursue drilling in one of the last remaining wild places in the United States and to threaten the rights of the Gwich'in Indians; and

WHEREAS, the {city/county} wishes to spend its citizen's tax dollars in a manner that is socially and environmentally responsible,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, should the U.S. Congress ever allow oil or gas drilling in the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge, the {city/county} shall not knowingly purchase goods or services from corporations that purchase leases or develop oil fields in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.



U.S. Public Interest Research Group

National Association of State PIRGs

July 8, 2002

Ms. Dona Spring
2180 Milvia St.
Berkeley, CA 94704

Board of Directors

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Dear Councilwoman Spring:

We are writing to urge you to sponsor a selective purchasing resolution asking the city of Berkeley to refrain from knowingly purchasing goods or services from companies that purchase leases or develop oil fields in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, if Congress permits drilling in this region.

The coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge is the only five percent of Alaska's North Slope, America's Arctic- that has not been opened to drilling. The Arctic Refuge supports large populations of caribou, muskoxen, polar, black and brown bears, and at least 134 species of migratory birds.

The Arctic Refuge is sacred to the Gwich'in Indians, the people of the caribou. The Porcupine caribou herd is central to their way of life. The Department of Interior warns that drilling in the Arctic Refuge could harm or displace up to 40 percent of the caribou herd. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge would therefore damage or destroy a culture that has flourished for almost a thousand generations.

Congress and the Bush Administration have considered opening this region to drilling under pressure from the oil industry. However, the U.S. Geological Survey estimates that the Arctic Refuge contains less than six months worth of economically recoverable oil. Using the oil companies' own real-world investment criteria, however, it appears that no oil can profitably be recovered from this pristine wilderness. It's simply too expensive. (For more information, see False Profits: The Business Case Against Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge at www.savethearctic.com)

It is imperative that the Arctic Refuge, one of the last wild places of the United States and sacred land of the Gwich'in Indians, is protected from the oil industry, which is pouring millions of dollars into political campaigns to have this area opened for drilling. The companies with an interest in drilling in the Arctic Refuge include BP, ExxonMobil, ChevronTexaco, and Phillips Petroleum.

Selective purchasing decisions of cities, counties and universities across the nation have been effective in changing corporate behavior. The most successful selective purchasing campaigns at the local level have forced companies to refrain from investing in activities in Burma, including PepsiCo, Motorola, Hewlett Packard, Phillips Electronics, Eastman Kodak, and Apple Computer. Purchasing resolutions also resulted in several oil companies not renewing leases in Burma, including ARCO, Amoco, BHP Petroleum, Royal Dutch Shell and Petro-Canada. With your help in championing this effort in your council, we too can achieve similar success.

JUL-08-2002 11:50

U.S. FIRM

202 340 2401 F.00/00

Oil Drilling In The Arctic Refuge Is Not Needed

Opening the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge will not solve our energy problems.

The U.S. Geological Survey assessment of the coastal plain estimates that the oil found in the Arctic Refuge would meet the petroleum needs of the United States for less than 6 months.

Increasing the average fuel efficiency of cars and trucks by 2 percent per year would save at least twice as much oil as would be found in the Refuge. Increased auto fuel efficiency would also limit the amount of carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere. Scientists have reached a virtual consensus that the burning of carbon fuels is heating up the atmosphere and leading to climate changes unparalleled in human history.

Special Interest's Effort To Open The Arctic Refuge For Drilling

BP Amoco, ExxonMobil, Chevron and Phillips Petroleum, some of the largest corporations on Earth, stand to make billions of dollars if Congress permits them to drill in the Refuge. To win approval for drilling, these companies are using their virtually unlimited amounts of money, insider access, media, high-priced public relations firms, and raw political power.

- Since 1994, oil and gas companies have donated more than \$92 million in campaign contributions to candidates running for Congress and President. BP Amoco, ExxonMobil, Chevron and Phillips Petroleum donated more than \$9 million to candidates during the last election.
- In 1997 alone the oil and gas industry spent \$51.7 million on high-paid lobbyists and purchasing meals, travel, and other favors for decision-makers and their staffs, according to a study by the Associated Press.

Save America's Arctic

Oil drilling in an area as unique and sensitive as the Arctic Refuge makes about as much sense as filling in the Grand Canyon or plugging-up Old Faithful.

The four oil companies planning to drill in the Refuge must be convinced that it is not in America's interest to spoil the Refuge.

The best way to save the Arctic Refuge is for Congress to pass the Arctic Wilderness Bill. This bill would protect the Arctic Refuge from oil drilling by adding 1.5 million acres to the National Wilderness Preservation System, barring oil and gas exploration in the region and protecting the coastal plain forever.

How You Can Help Protect The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge



1. Contact the heads of the four companies that want to drill in the Refuge and urge them to abandon their plans. Tell them that drilling is too dirty and dangerous for an area as pristine and unique as the Arctic Refuge. (see sample letter at right and addresses below)
2. Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support the Arctic Refuge Wilderness Bill and designate the coastal plain as a protected wilderness area.

Dear (see names below),

It is too dirty and dangerous to drill for oil in an area as pristine and unique as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I urge (BP Amoco/ExxonMobil/Chevron/Phillips Petroleum) to voluntarily cancel oil and gas drilling plans for the Arctic Refuge and support wilderness designation for the coastal plain.

Drilling in the Arctic would pollute and industrialize one of the last pristine areas left in the United States. It supports large populations of caribou, musk ox, bears, wolves, bison, and thousands of migrating birds. The 152,000 Porcupine River caribou herd migrates to the refuge each year. The U.S. Department of the Interior warns that drilling in the Refuge could harm up to 40 percent of the caribou herd.

It doesn't make sense to damage one of America's last wild places for six months worth of oil. I urge you to cancel your drilling plans and endorse the Arctic Refuge Wilderness Bill.

Sincerely,
Name and Address

Oil Corporation Addresses

Sir John Browne
BP Amoco p.l.c.
Britannic House 1, Finsbury Circus
London EC2M 7BA
1-800-UTELLBP
http://www.bpamoco.com/_nav/email/

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chevweb@chevron.com

Mr. James J. Muha, C.E.O.
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