



Institute for
Policy Integrity

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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STATEMENT ON ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LEASING

The Trump administration [revealed](#) today that it will offer the entirety of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain for lease to fossil-fuel companies, releasing a final environmental impact statement that opts for the most aggressive leasing alternative that had been under consideration by the Bureau of Land Management.

Jayni Hein, Natural Resources Director at the Institute for Policy Integrity, has issued the following statement:

“This is an ecological nightmare, just in time for Friday the 13th. Far too much pristine land is at risk of needless development, which could have devastating consequences for wildlife, ecosystems, and climate change. The high cost and high risk of drilling in the Arctic makes this lease sale highly irrational from both a public and private perspective. The United States does not need to drill in the Refuge in order to meet national energy needs, and there are myriad other locations to produce energy that have far fewer environmental risks and better infrastructure to bring those resources to market.”

The Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law closely follows natural resource leasing policy issues in ANWR and elsewhere. We [submitted comments](#) to the Bureau of Land Management on the draft environmental impact statement, explaining how fossil fuel extraction in ANWR would pose serious threats to a delicate ecosystem and would contribute significantly to climate change. Our criticism focused on the methodological flaws in BLM's analysis and their failure to consider viable leasing alternatives. We also submitted [joint comments](#) with several environmental groups on the agency's failure to monetize climate damages in the draft environmental impact statement.

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[The Institute for Policy Integrity](#) at New York University School of Law is a non-partisan think tank dedicated to improving the quality of government decisionmaking. The institute produces original scholarly research in the fields of economics, law, and regulatory policy; and advocates for reform before courts, legislatures, and executive agencies.