



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Biden administration's approval of the ConocoPhillips Willow project abandons its climate promises and fails to protect nearby communities.

The Biden administration approved the Willow Master Development Plan today, setting the stage for increased health issues for local people and climate impacts that threaten land, water, animals, and communities throughout the Arctic region.

Willow will lock in Arctic oil and gas extraction for another 30 years and catalyze future oil expansion in the Arctic. Fossil fuels are single-handedly the most damaging contributor to the global climate emergency, especially in the Arctic. The oil and gas industry further pollutes and causes health harms to local people, including to their food access, cultural traditions, and physical and mental health.

The true cost of the Willow project is to the land and to animals and people forced to breathe polluted air and drink polluted water. While out-of-state executives take in record profits, local residents are left to contend with the detrimental impacts of being surrounded by massive drilling operations.

No amount of money justifies the cost to local people and the planet.

“The Biden administration’s approval makes it clear that its call for climate action and the protection of biodiversity is talk, not action,” said Sonia Ahkivgak, SILA’s social outreach coordinator. “The only reasonable solution to the climate emergency is to deny new fossil fuel projects like Willow. Our fight has been long and also it has only begun. We will continue to call for a stop to Willow because the lives of local people and future generations depend on it.”

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