

The Biden administration just approved a new oil and gas project that will lock in drilling for decades, drive the climate crisis, and cause harm to Arctic communities

Today the Biden administration approved ConocoPhillips' Willow project in the western Arctic of Alaska, locking in oil and gas drilling and massive greenhouse gas emissions for decades. The decision undermines Biden's climate promises and again demonstrates how political and industry interests put "business as usual" before the health of people and the planet.

Authorization of the project comes after a deficient supplemental environmental review process that failed to assess the intense and cumulative impacts of the project on Arctic communities, lands and water, wildlife, and the global climate. The harm to communities and climate will be massive as the project turns into the industrial hub ConocoPhillips has always sought.

Overwhelming public and scientific input has demonstrated that Willow poses a serious threat to the Arctic region. Willow will pollute water and air, disrupt animal migrations, destroy habitat, and result in the release of around 239 million metric tons of greenhouse gasses over the project's 30-year lifespan. The resulting infrastructure is expected to result in additional development that would magnify Willow's negative environmental impacts.

If built, Willow will be the largest new oil extraction project on federal lands in the United States. It will have devastating impacts to the entire western Arctic region, posing serious health, environmental, and food security threats to nearby Alaska Native communities.

Since the final supplemental environmental impact statement was released in early February, more than 5.6 million petition comments asked the Biden administration to stop Willow. On March 3, Alaskans joined other Americans in a rally opposing Willow and the climate disaster it will accelerate. Indigenous leaders and groups from Alaska traveled to Washington D.C. to urge Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and other administration officials to stop Willow, and to again counter the false narrative told by Alaska's political leaders that everyone in Alaska Native communities and Alaska supports the project.

The approval of Willow is a giant step backwards in addressing the climate crisis. Today, the Biden administration bowed to industry and political power rather than prioritizing land protections, Indigenous communities, and meaningful climate action and leadership.

Sovereign Iñupiat for a Living Arctic
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Alaska Wilderness League
Trustees for Alaska
Evergreen Action
The Wilderness Society
Environment America
Friends of the Earth
Conservation Lands Foundation
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)

Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Alaska Soles, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Sierra Club
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
Natural Resources Defense Council
Interfaith Power & Light
Defenders of Wildlife
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
Center for Biological Diversity
Earthjustice
NDN Collective
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