



Gwich'in Steering Committee

3401 Airport Way, Suite 201 Fairbanks, AK 99709 • Office: 907-458-8264 Fax: 907-457-8265

"In no case may a people be deprived of their own means of subsistence."
International Covenants on Human Rights

To: American Financial Group (Great American Insurance Company), Argo Group, Chubb, CNA, Liberty Mutual, Markel, RLI, The Hartford, Travelers, and WR Berkley,

We, the Gwich'in Steering Committee, and the undersigned organizations, have [called on](#) you, and continue to call on you and other global insurers to commit to the protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northeast Alaska from the harms of fossil fuel development.

Your peer [AIG \(American International Group, Inc.\) recently became the first U.S. insurance company](#) to issue a [policy](#) stating that they will not underwrite or invest in new Arctic energy exploration activities. This makes AIG the first U.S. insurer to limit insurance of the Arctic oil & gas sector. They join [14 insurers](#) and [29 major financial institutions](#) who have restricted support for oil and gas drilling in the Arctic Refuge. This list includes five of Canada's largest banks along with U.S. financial institutions like [Goldman Sachs](#), [JPMorgan Chase](#), [Citigroup](#), [Morgan Stanley](#), [Bank of America](#), and [Wells Fargo](#). These financial institutions recognize the risks and the reputational consequences they would face should they support the violation of Indigenous Peoples' human rights and such an important ecosystem.

We respectfully urge you to join your colleagues and competitors and:

1. Issue clear, public statements refusing to provide insurance and investment to any energy exploration, development, production, and transportation in the Arctic Refuge and across the Arctic region;
2. Adopt a formal policy to prohibit new insurance products or the extension of existing insurance contracts to cover the exploration, production, or transportation of oil and gas in the Arctic Refuge, including surety bonds, commercial multiple peril insurance, and reinsurance;
3. Avoid financing oil and gas development in the Arctic Refuge by ruling out investments in companies involved in Arctic Refuge development and those that do not have policies prohibiting their own involvement in the Arctic Refuge;
4. Enact a comprehensive policy that includes a commitment to operationalizing Indigenous Peoples' right to free, prior and informed consent.

Our lives and our sovereignty are non-negotiable. We will not allow the destruction of Iizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit – the Sacred Place Where Life Begins – which has sustained us since time immemorial. These policies need to be put into place so that our people will continue to have a cultural and spiritual connection to our lands, waters, and animals for generations to come.

It is more important than ever that financial institutions and investors demonstrate their commitment to keeping our heritage intact. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge will cause irreversible destruction to a sacred landscape while being [short-sighted](#), [risky](#), and unnecessary. It will exacerbate global warming in an area that is already [ground zero for climate impacts](#) and warming [four times faster](#) than the rest of the world.

In solidarity with the Gwich'in Nation, the organizations below are calling on you to join other financial institutions who have taken a stand by agreeing not to finance or insure oil and gas development in the Arctic. We are calling on you to not violate the human rights of Alaska Indigenous communities, harm wildlife, or exacerbate the devastating

climate impacts we are facing by insuring in Arctic oil and gas activities. Current and future generations depend on your forward-thinking commitments to human rights and the health of our planet.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Demientieff

Gwich'in Steering Committee, Alaska

1. 1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations, California
2. 350 Eastside, Washington
3. 350 Hawaii, Hawaii
4. 350 Kishwaukee, Illinois
5. 350 NJ-Rockland, New Jersey
6. 350NYC, New York
7. 350 Seattle, Washington
8. A Community Voice, Louisiana
9. Acadia Center, Connecticut
10. Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action, Colorado
11. Action Center on Race and the Economy, California
12. Adrian Dominican Sisters, Portfolio Advisory Board, Michigan
13. Advocates for the Environment, California
14. Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Alaska
15. Alaska Environment, Alaska
16. Alaska Wilderness League, Washington, D.C.
17. Alternatives North, Canada
18. Amazon Watch, California
19. American Packrafting Association, Wyoming
20. Animals Are Sentient Beings Inc, Massachusetts
21. Anthropocene Alliance, Florida
22. Arctic Treks LLC, Alaska
23. Audubon Alaska, Alaska
24. Azul, Washington, D.C.
25. Beyond Extreme Energy, New Jersey
26. Black Hills Clean Water Alliance, South Dakota
27. Bold Alliance, Nebraska
28. Businesses for a Livable Climate, Colorado
29. California Climate Action Now!, California
30. Californians for Western Wilderness, California
31. California Kitchen, California
32. Call to Action Colorado, Colorado
33. Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society - Yukon Chapter (CPAWS Yukon) Yukon, Canada
34. Capitol Heights Presbyterian, Colorado
35. CatholicNetwork US, Colorado
36. CDP - Energy and Environmental Initiative, Colorado
37. Center for Biological Diversity, California
38. Champaign County Audubon Society, Illinois
39. Charlton-Pollard Historical Neighborhood Association, Texas
40. Chequamegon Audubon Society, Wisconsin
41. Christian Council of Delmarva, Delaware
42. Citizens Against Longwall Mining, Illinois
43. Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood, Colorado
44. Citizens Committee for Flood Relief, Missouri
45. Clean Energy Action, Colorado
46. Clean Yield Asset Management, Vermont
47. Climate Action Rhode Island-350, Rhode Island
48. Climate Hawks Vote, California
49. Climate Reality Baltimore Area Chapter, Maryland
50. CO Businesses for a Livable Climate, Colorado
51. COCRN Colorado Community Rights Network, Colorado
52. Community for Sustainable Energy, Colorado
53. Congregation of St. Joseph, West Virginia
54. Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes, Wisconsin
55. Connecticut Citizen Action Group, Connecticut
56. Conservation Alabama, Alabama
57. Cottonwood Institute, Colorado
58. Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise, Missouri
59. Decatur Audubon Society, Illinois
60. Defenders of Wildlife, Alaska
61. Detroit Audubon, Michigan
62. Divest Ed, Massachusetts
63. DNC Environment and Climate Crisis Council, Michigan
64. Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids, Michigan
65. Earth Ethics, Inc., Florida
66. Eco-Justice Collaborative, Illinois
67. Ecology Center of Southern California, California
68. Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate and Health Organization (EEECHO), Mississippi
69. EGG350.org, Illinois
70. Empower our Future, Colorado
71. Endangered Species Coalition, Washington, D.C.
72. Environment America, Washington, D.C.
73. Environment California, California
74. Environment Colorado, Colorado
75. Environment Connecticut, Connecticut
76. Environment Georgia, Georgia
77. Environment Illinois, Illinois
78. Environment Massachusetts, Massachusetts
79. Environment Missouri, Missouri
80. Environment New Jersey, New Jersey
81. Environment Oregon, Oregon
82. Environment Texas, Texas
83. Environment Virginia, Virginia
84. Environment Washington, Washington
85. Environmental Protection Information Center-EPIC, California
86. Evansville Audubon Society, Indiana
87. Everence and the Praxis Mutual Funds, Indiana

88. Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area, California
89. Eyak Preservation Council, Alaska
90. Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition, Alaska
91. Figure 8 Investment Strategies, Idaho
92. First Peoples Worldwide, Colorado
93. Fossil Fuel Divest Harvard, Massachusetts
94. Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice, Illinois
95. FracTracker Alliance, Pennsylvania
96. FreshWater Accountability Project, Ohio
97. Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, Alaska
98. Friends Fiduciary Corporation, Pennsylvania
99. Friends of Plumas Wilderness, California
100. Friends of the Earth US, Washington, D.C.
101. Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, Georgia
102. Giniw Collective, Anishinaabe territory, Minnesota, USA
103. Glasswaters Foundation, Canada
104. Global Urban Solutions, Massachusetts
105. Great Bear Foundation, Alaska
106. Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance, Louisiana
107. Greater Park Hill Community, Colorado
108. Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Colorado
109. Green America, Washington, D.C.
110. GreenFaith, New York
111. GreenLatinos, Utah
112. Groundswell Charleston, South Carolina
113. Harrington Investments, Inc., California
114. Healthy Ocean Coalition, Maine
115. Hip Hop Caucus, Washington, D.C.
116. Hispanic Federation, Washington, D. C.
117. Honor the Earth, Minnesota
118. Howard County Climate Action, Maryland
119. Hrrrl Scouts, Alaska
120. Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's Climate Action Campaign, California
121. I-70 Citizens Advisory Group, Colorado
122. Indivisible Ambassadors, Colorado
123. Inland Ocean Coalition, Colorado
124. Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, New York
125. International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute, California
126. Iowa Audubon, Iowa
127. Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light, Kentucky
128. Klamath Forest Alliance, California
129. Lady Lawyer Foundation, Italy
130. Land is Life, New York and Ecuador
131. Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety and Environment, Colorado
132. LBC Action, Washington
133. Leadership Team of the Felician Sisters of North America, New York
134. League of Conservation Voters, Washington, D.C.
135. Leave it in the Ground Initiative (LINGO), Germany
136. Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network (LiKEN), Kentucky
137. Maine Conservation Voters, Maine
138. Malach Consulting, Utah
139. Market Forces, Australia
140. Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association Board, Colorado
141. Mazaska Talks, Washington
142. Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries, Colorado
143. Mercy Investment Services, Inc., Missouri
144. Methane Action, Washington
145. Michigan League of Conservation Voters, Michigan
146. Milwaukee Riverkeeper, Wisconsin
147. Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter, Minnesota
148. MN350, Minnesota
149. Montbello Neighborhood Improvement Association, Colorado
150. Mothers Out Front Colorado, Colorado
151. National Wildlife Refuge Association, Washington, D.C.
152. Natural Resources Defense Council, Washington, D.C.
153. NC League of Conservation Voters, North Carolina
154. New Energy Economy, New Mexico
155. New Mexico Wildlife Federation, New Mexico
156. New Progressive Alliance, Washington
157. North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE), New York
158. Northcoast Environmental Center, California
159. Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition, Ohio
160. North Range Concerned Citizens, Colorado
161. Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Alaska
162. Nuclear Information and Resource Service, Maryland
163. Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project, New Mexico
164. Oceanic Preservation Society, California
165. Oil Change International, Washington, D.C.
166. Omni Center for Peace Justice Ecology, Arkansas
167. Oregonizers, Oregon
168. Pasifika Uprising, Hawaii
169. Patagonia, Nevada
170. Peace Action Wisconsin, Wisconsin
171. PennEnvironment, Pennsylvania
172. Pennsylvania Council of Churches, Pennsylvania
173. Power Shift Network, Washington, D.C.
174. Project Coyote, California
175. Province of Saint Joseph of the Capuchin Order, Wisconsin
176. Public Citizen, Washington D.C.
177. Pueblo Action Alliance, Sandia Pueblo
178. Rachel Carson Council, Maryland
179. Rainforest Action Network, California
180. RapidShift Network, Colorado
181. Region VI Coalition for Responsible Investment, Ohio
182. Rocky Mountain Wild, Colorado
183. Safe Alternatives for our Forest Environment, California
184. San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council, Colorado
185. Save EPA, Colorado

186. Save Our Illinois Land, Illinois
187. Seeding Sovereignty, New Mexico
188. Seventh Generation Interfaith, Wisconsin
189. Sierra Club, California
190. Sierra Club Foundation, California
191. Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, New Jersey
192. Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
193. Small Business Alliance, Colorado
194. Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, Oregon
195. Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative, Maine
196. Southwest Organization for Sustainability, Colorado
197. Sovereign Iñupiat for a Living Arctic, Alaska
198. Spirit of the Sun, Inc., Colorado
199. Stand.earth, Washington
200. Student Public Interest Research Groups, Florida
201. SumOfUs, California
202. Sunflower Alliance, California
203. Sunnyside United Neighbors, inc (SUNI), Colorado
204. Sustainable Advisors Alliance, Oklahoma
205. System Change Not Climate Change
206. Terra Advocati, Texas
207. The Climate Museum, New York
208. The Green House Connection Center, Colorado
209. The Wilderness Society, Washington, D.C.
210. Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue, New York
211. Tó Nizhóní Ání, Arizona
212. Transition Express Campaign, California
213. Trustees for Alaska, Alaska
214. Tuleyome, California
215. Turtle Island Restoration Network, Texas
216. UCAN, Colorado
217. Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Massachusetts
218. Unite North Metro Denver, Colorado
219. United Women in Faith, New York
220. Valencia Renewables, New Mexico
221. Vermont Conservation Voters, Vermont
222. Vote Climate, Minnesota
223. Vuntut Gwitchin Government, Yukon, Canada
224. Wall of Women, Colorado
225. Waterway Advocates, Florida
226. Western Slope Businesses for a Livable Climate, Colorado
227. Western Watersheds Project, Idaho
228. White Rabbit Grove RDNA, Wisconsin
229. Wild Heritage, California
230. Wilderness in the City, Minnesota
231. Wilderness Watch, Montana
232. Wildlife Adventures, North Dakota
233. Wilwerding Consulting, also Co-Chair, Littleton Business Alliance, Colorado
234. WildEarth Guardians, Colorado
235. Winter Wildlands Alliance, Idaho
236. Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN), California
237. Womxn from the Mountain, Colorado
238. Wooley Energy & Environment; UC Berkeley Goldman School Public Policy, California
239. Working for Racial Equity, Colorado
240. Zumbro Valley Audubon, Minnesota