

Model Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The current threat to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) by current federal government initiatives is high.

It is time to wave a red flag.

The Budget Appropriations Bill that is now winding through Congress hides significant government investments in despoiling ANWR by promoting drilling and access roads and pipelines, and using the estimated income to help balance the national budget.

The economics of this are predatory, and are based on smoke and mirrors.

The connections between ANWR and New York are deep.

ANWR is a national resource owned by all of us.

Physical connections include migrating wildlife including millions of migratory birds that come through here. We are local stewards of biodiversity that help conserve arctic wilderness.

The impacts of oil and gas extraction include public investments vast profits for the private sector will cause both the localized destruction of fragile habitat and continued dependence on fossil fuels. Science tells us that the greenhouse gasses released by the use of these fuels are a significant force in creating climate change. Climate change will continue to cost all New Yorkers uncharted amounts of money. This will negatively impact all of our lives.

The economic and social costs of climate change will characterize the success of our region and our nation for generations to come.

Please help to resist the exploitation of the fragile Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for the extraction of fossil fuels. This will benefit a wealthy few and cost the rest of us a positive quality of life for generations to come.

[your name here]