

**From:** [William McMullin](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protect ANWR  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023 4:47:35 PM

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Dear FWS:

In 2021, the Biden administration passed a rule that lets oil and gas companies harass already threatened Southern Beaufort Sea polar bears and ignores the likelihood that these activities could cause injury and death.

Continued harassment can stress polar bears to the point of injury or death, and there are only about 900 of these polar bears left. FWS's own science presents the probability that the North Slope's oil and gas activities will cause serious injury or death to polar bears over the regulation's five-year period.

The rule doubles down on the threat to the Beaufort Sea polar bear population by letting an industry already responsible for a climate crisis also harm and potentially kill polar bear cubs while further industrializing the bears' habitat for oil and gas.

Moreover, this rule is a violation of the Marine Mammals Protection Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

I am writing to you today to urge your agency to reject this new rule and refuse to authorize any new or expanded oil and gas activities under the rule.

Sincerely,

William McMullin

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