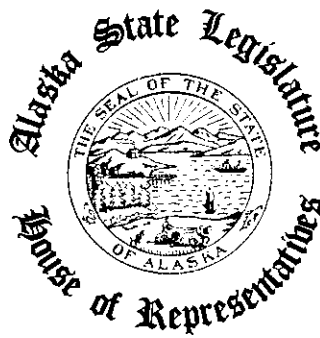


REPRESENTATIVE
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June 3, 2010

Sharon Seim
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
101 12th Ave., Room 236
Fairbanks, AK 99701-6237

Ms Seim,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife's review of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will include a Wilderness Review to determine if additional acreage in the refuge should be listed as Wilderness by the United States Congress.

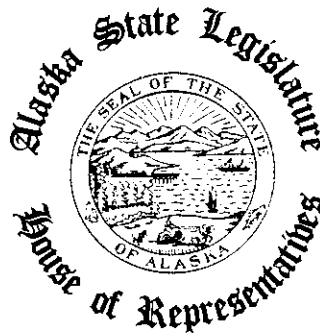
I strongly oppose listing any more land within ANWR as Wilderness for the following reasons:

- Eight million acres, out of a total of over 19 million acres, already have a Wilderness designation and that is more than on any other National Wildlife Refuge
- The Fish and Wildlife Service says it is as primitive and undisturbed as any conservation area in the Nation so declaring additional acreage as Wilderness is unnecessary
- 92 percent of the refuge is already closed to development
- Congress excluded the "1002 area" from ANWR's large Wilderness block in a compromise struck under ANILCA
- In 1987, the Department of the Interior concluded oil development would have minimal impact on wildlife and recommended Congress open the coastal plain to development
- Upwards of 16 billion barrels of oil and 18 trillion cubic feet of natural gas are estimated to lie within the 1002 area of ANWR

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- Wildlife populations have all remained stable or grown over the 35-year period of oil development on the North Slope. The Central Arctic caribou herd at Prudhoe Bay has grown from under 5,000 animals in the 1970s to more than 66,000 animals today, a clear indication that wildlife and development can coexist
- Responsible oil and gas development of the 1002 area will provide a safe and secure source of energy to the nation, create hundreds of thousands of jobs throughout the country, and refill the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System which is operating at one-third its original capacity

These are just some of the reasons why the Comprehensive Conservation Plan should recommend against new Wilderness designations in ANWR. The 1002 Area is simply America's best hope for a large onshore oil and gas field that will wean our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

Sincerely,

Rep. Charisse Millett