

July 20, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Strengthen Bureau of Land Management Rulemaking (RIN: 1004-AE80) to Phase Out Onshore Federal Oil and Gas Production

Dear President Biden,

Our organizations implore you to rapidly phase down federal fossil fuel extraction and production on public lands, as is necessary to avoid the domestic and worldwide catastrophes of allowing global warming to reach 1.5 degrees Celsius.

We ask that you direct the Department of the Interior (DOI) to use its rulemaking for onshore oil and gas leasing and permitting (RIN: 1004-AE80) to enact a declining rate of federal oil and gas production under the Mineral Leasing Act to near-zero by 2030. To preserve a likely chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C, the U.S. and other developed countries, must end all oil and gas production by 2031.¹

Your administration's policy of ongoing federal fossil fuel expansion represents a spectacular failure of climate leadership on the world stage. Your decision to approve the Willow Master Development Project drew rightful condemnation from the United Nations' Secretary General's office.² Despite your promise to end new drilling on public land, the Bureau of Land Management's runaway oil and gas program remains wholly untethered to climate goals and has approved more permits for oil and gas drilling on public lands in its first two years than the Trump Administration's Bureau did in its first two years.³ These permits, including the Willow approval, will result in over one billion tons of climate pollution if not revoked or phased out, equivalent to the annual emissions of hundreds of coal-fired power plants. Our planet cannot afford this pollution.

¹ Calverley, D., & Anderson, K. (2022). Phaseout Pathways for Fossil Fuel Production Within Paris-compliant Carbon Budgets.

² Groom, Nichola, and Valerie Volcovici. "Biden Administration Approves Massive Willow Oil Project in Alaska." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 13 Mar. 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/biden-administration-approves-willow-oil-project-alaska-2023-03-13/>.

³ "Approved APDS Report - Federal." *U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management*, <https://reports.blm.gov/report/AFMSS/81/Approved-APDs-Report-Federal>.

The latest IPCC report is the last assessment that will be released while governments still have time to avoid the devastation of warming to 1.5°C.⁴ Its findings are unequivocal: unprecedented action to phase out fossil fuels is absolutely necessary to achieve international climate targets. If not phased out, existing fossil fuel infrastructure will produce enough climate pollution to push us past 1.5°C, toward a future of new weather extremes, rising seas, animal and plant extinctions, and death, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable people.⁵ This is why U.N. Secretary-General Guterres has conditioned participation in September's Climate Ambition Summit in September on participants' commitment to ending permitting for new oil and gas production, prohibiting the expansion of existing oil and gas reserves, and phasing down fossil fuel production.⁶

The United States, as the world's wealthiest country and largest historic emitter of greenhouse gasses, has both the financial capacity and moral obligation to lead the world in phasing out fossil fuels to avoid catastrophic climate disruption. In the U.S., this phaseout must begin on the federal public lands that the DOI controls. Nearly a quarter of the United States' greenhouse gas emissions come from public lands under the DOI's control.⁷ The Mineral Leasing Act provides the authority to manage rates of oil and gas production to avoid catastrophic climate thresholds. This authority is explicitly retained in every onshore oil and gas lease. The DOI can, and must, exercise this authority in its current oil and gas rulemaking (RIN: 1004-AE80) to manage rates of production to near zero by 2030.

Alarming, it seems that DOI's rulemaking instead seeks only the meagerest reforms to royalty rates and bonding. Allowing more fossil fuel development that is fundamentally incompatible with avoiding 1.5°C warming, regardless of royalty or bonding rate, is dangerous.

The climate emergency is a grave threat to humanity and a significant driver of the extinction crisis. The remaining years of your Administration will determine the health of life on Earth for generations to come. You have the power to lead the way to a more sustainable future. For the sake of humanity, and all species worldwide, you must act boldly to phase out fossil fuels, starting with our nation's public lands.

Urgently,

⁴ Lee, Hoesung, et al. "SYNTHESIS REPORT OF THE IPCC SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR6): Summary for Policy Makers." Edited by Gregory Flato et al., *IPCC*, 20 Mar. 2023, https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6syr/pdf/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf.

⁵ Lee, Hoesung, et al. "SYNTHESIS REPORT OF THE IPCC SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR6): Summary for Policy Makers." Edited by Gregory Flato et al., *IPCC*, 20 Mar. 2023, https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6syr/pdf/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf.

⁶ "Secretary-General's Video Message for Press Conference to Launch the Synthesis Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change." *United Nations*, United Nations, 20 Mar. 2023, <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2023-03-20/secretary-generals-video-message-for-press-conference-launch-the-synthesis-report-of-the-intergovernmental-panel-climate-change>. Accessed 20 Mar. 2023.

⁷ Merrill, M.D., Sleeter, B.M., Freeman, P.A., Liu, J., Warwick, P.D., and Reed, B.C., 2018, Federal lands greenhouse emissions and sequestration in the United States—Estimates for 2005–14: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2018–5131, 31 p., <https://doi.org/10.3133/sir20185131>.

1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations

198 methods

350 Bay Area Action

350 Central Mass

350 Chicago

350 Colorado

350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley

350 Contra Costa

350 Corvallis

350 Eugene

350 Humboldt

350 Mass

350 Montana

350 New Hampshire

350 Santa Barbara

350 Seattle

350 Triangle

350 Ventura County Climate Hub

350 Wichita

350 Wisconsin

350.org

350Hawaii

350Kishwaukee

350MA-Berkshires

350Merced

350NYC

7 Directions of Service

A Community Voice - Louisiana

Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action

Action for the Climate Emergency (ACE)

Active San Gabriel Valley

Adventist Peace Fellowship

Africa Institute for Energy Governance

Alabama Interfaith Power & Light

Alameda Creek Alliance

Alaska Community Action on Toxics

All Souls NYC Peace & Justice

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Am Kolel Jewish Renewal Center

American Jewish World Service

American Solar Energy Society

Animals Are Sentient Beings Inc

Animas Valley Institute

Anthropocene Alliance

ARTivism Virginia

Athens County's Future Action Network, acfan.org

Aytzim: Ecological Judaism

Back Country Excursions, LLC

Battle Creek Alliance & Defiance Canyon Raptor Rescue

Bay Area - System Change not Climate Change

Bay Area JEA

Bay Area Jewish Earth Alliance

Be The Change - Colorado

Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group

Bergen County Green Party

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists Social Justice Committee

Berks Gas Truth

Berkshire Environmental Action Team

Better Brazoria Clean Air & Water

Better Path Coalition

Between the Waters

Beyond Extreme Energy

Bold Alliance

Breast Cancer Action

Breathe Project

Bronx Climate Justice North

Bronx Jews for Climate Justice

Businesses for a Livable Climate

CA Dem Party Environmental Caucus

CADEM Environmental Caucus

California Communities Against Toxics

California Interfaith Power and Light

Californians for Western Wilderness

Call to Action Colorado

Campaign for America's Future

Career Awareness And Planning, LLC
Carolina Biodiesel, LLC
CASA
Cascadia Climate Action Now
CASE Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood
CatholicNetwork US
CELL
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Coalfield Justice
Center for Environmental Health
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
Center for Popular Democracy
Central Bergen Circle of GreenFaith
Central California Asthma Collaborative
Central California Environmental Justice Network
Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War
Central Jersey Environmental Defenders
CERBAT
Chaco Alliance
Change Begins With ME (Indivisible)
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Christians For The Mountains
Church Women United in New York State
Citizens for a Healthy Community
Citizens' Climate Lobby - LA West Chapter

Citizens' Climate Lobby NY Greater Capital Region

Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two (CRAFT)

Ciudadanos Del Karso

Clean Air Coalition of Greater Ravena Coeymans

Clean Energy Action

CleanEarth4Kids.org

Climate 911

Climate Action Network Southeast Asia

Climate Action Sea Turtles (CAST)

Climate Crisis Solutions

Climate Equity Policy Center

Climate Families NYC

Climate First!, Inc.

Climate Hawks Vote

Climate Health Now

Climate Reality Massachusetts Southcoast

Climate Reality Project Northern Colorado Chapter

Climate Reality Project, North Broward and Palm Beach County Chapter

Climate Smart Missoula

CO Businesses for a Livable Climate

CO Dem Party - Energy & Environment Initiative

Coalition Against Death Alley

Coastal Plains Institute

Codepink San Francisco Bay Area

Color Brighton Green

Colorado Coalition for a Livable Climate
Colorado College
Colorado Jewish Climate Action
Community for Sustainable Energy
Concerned Health Professionals of New York
Concerned Health Professionals of Pennsylvania
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Cook County Local Energy Project
Cooperative Energy Futures
Cottonwood Environmental Law Center
Citizens Awareness Network
Cudahy Alliance for Justice
Custom Power Solar
Daily Kos
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
DC NATIVES
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Democratic Socialists of America - Knoxville, TN
Diné C.A.R.E
Divest NJ
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Don't Waste Arizona
Down East Coal Ash Environmental and Social Justice Coalition
Earth Care
Earth Care Alliance

Earth Ethics, Inc.

Earth Guardians, INC

EARTHDAY.ORG (Earth Day Network)

Earthworks

East Valley Indivisibles

Eco-Eating

Eco-Logic, WBAI-FM

ecoAmerica

EcoFlight

Elders Climate Action

Elders Climate Action - Arizona

Elders Climate Action, Nor Cal Chapter

Elders Climate Action, So Cal Chapter

Elected Officials to Protect America

Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church

Empower our Future

End Climate Silence

Endangered Species Coalition

Energizing Renewable Growth in Holstein Valley

Energy Justice Network

Environmental Protection Information Center - EPIC

Extinction Rebellion Delaware

Extinction Rebellion Los Angeles

Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area

Extinction Rebellion US

Extinction Rebellion Western Massachusetts

Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition

Family Farm Defenders

FCCPR Climate Crisis Task Force

Feminists in Action Los Angeles

Fenceline Watch

First Church Unitarian, Littleton MA

Flight Free USA

Florida Student Power

Food & Water Watch

For the Many

Fossil Free California

Fossil Free Tompkins

Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice

FracTracker Alliance

FreshWater Accountability Project

Fresnans against Fracking

Fridays for Future US

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay

Friends of the Bitterroot

Friends of the Earth

GASP (Greater-Birmingham Alliance to Stop Pollution)

Gen-Z for Change

George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication

Georgia Advancing Communities Together, Inc.

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)

Global Exchange

Global Healing Foundation

Global Warming Education Network

Good Neighbor Steering Committee of Benicia

Good Stewards of Rockingham

Gotham Bat Conservancy

Grassroots Environmental Education

Grassroots Global Justice Alliance

Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association

Great Old Broads for Wilderness Tucson

Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance

Green Compass LLC

Green Party of Erie County New York

Green Party of New York

Green Party of Onondaga County

Green State Solutions

GreenFaith

Greenfield Presbyterian Church

GreenLatinos

Greenpeace USA

Greenvest

Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart

HA:N United Methodist Church

Healthy Ocean Coalition

Heartwood

Heirs To Our Ocean

High Country Conservation Advocates

Hindus for Human Rights

Hip Hop Caucus

Honor the Earth

Howling For Wolves

Human Dimensions TV, LLC

Human Rights Working Group of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

I-70 Citizens Advisory Group

Idaho Conservation League

ikiyA collective

In the Shadow of the Wolf

Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition

Indigenous Environmental Network

Indivisible Ambassadors

Indivisible Colorado

Indivisible Cranbury

Indivisible Pittsfield

Indivisible San Jose

Indivisible South Bay LA

Indivisible Tacoma

Information Network for Responsible Mining

Inland Ocean Coalition

Inspiration of Sedona

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program

Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice

Interfaith EarthKeepers

Interfaith Oceans

Interfaith Power & Light

Interfaith Power & Light (DC, Maryland, Northern Virginia)

International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute

It Is Time

John Muir Project

Justice Environment

Kentucky Heartwood

Kewaunee CARES

Kickapoo Peace Circle

Labor Network for Sustainability

LaPlaca and Associates LLC

Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety and Environment

Littleton Business Alliance

Liveable Arlington

Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network, Inc. (LiKEN)

Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper

Locust Point Community Garden

Long Island Progressive Coalition

Los Padres ForestWatch

Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network

Malach Consulting

Maryland Ornithological Society

Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light

Maternal and Child Health Access

Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association Board

Menlo Spark

Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries

Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement

Michigan Climate Action Network

Michigan Interfaith Power & Light

Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network

Mid-Missouri Peaceworks

Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action

Milwaukee Riverkeeper

Mission Blue

MN350

Mobilized.news

Montbello Neighborhood Improvement Association

Morningside Gardens for Environmental Sustainability

Mothers Out Front Tompkins

Mountain Watershed Association

Movement Rights

MoveOn.org Hoboken RESIST

Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment

Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club

National Religious Coalition on Creation Care

Native Movement

Nature Coast Conservation

NELA Climate Collective

New Energy Economy

New Jersey Tenants Organization

New Mexico Climate Justice

New Mexico Environmental Law Center

New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light

New Mexico No False Solutions

New York Progressive Action Network of the Southern Finger Lakes

New York Progressive Action Network, Greene County

Nia Impact Capital

Nicaragua Center for Community Action

NJ Sierra club

NJ State Industrial Union Council

NM Earthholders

No Fracked Gas in Mass

North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE)

North American Indian Center of Boston

North Bronx Racial Justice

North Carolina Climate Justice Collective

Northeast Oregon Ecosystems

Northern Arizona Climate Change Alliance

Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council

Novasutras

Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS)

Nuclear Information and Resource Service

NY Climate Advocacy Project

NYC Friends of Clearwater

Occidental Arts and Ecology Center

Occupy Bergen County

Ocean Conservation Research

Oceanic Preservation Society

Oil and Gas Action Network

Oil Change International

Olin Climate Justice

Operation HomeCare, Inc.

Our Place in the World: A Journal of Ecosocialism

Our Revolution

Our Revolution Cayuga County

Our Revolution Michigan

Our Revolution New Jersey

Our Revolution Ocean County, NJ

Our Revolution Ohio

Our Revolution Trenton Mercer

Our Wisconsin Revolution

Oxfam America

PA Jewish Earth Alliance

Pacific Environment

PAEAN: Peoples Alliance for Earth Action Now

Palms To Pines Democratic Network

Partnership for Policy Integrity

Patagonia

Pax Christi USA

Peace Action New York State

Peace Action Wisconsin

Peacemakers of Schoharie County

Pelican Media

Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light

People for a Healthy Environment

Peoples Climate Movement-NY

Phil Berrigan Memorial Veterans For Peace

Physicians for Social Responsibility - New York

Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles

Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania

Physicians for Social Responsibility PSR Colorado

Pi808

Pittsburghers Against Single Use Plastics

Pollution Free Society

Port Arthur Community Action Network

Portland Harbor Community Coalition

Predator Defense

Premier Tech Solutions

Presente.org

Preserve Wild Sante

Primate Conservation Inc

Prince George's County (Maryland) Peace & Justice Coalition

Progressive Democrats of America

Progressives for Climate

Project Coyote

Project Eleven Hundred

Protect All Children's Environment

Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights (POWHR)

Protect Penn-Trafford

PSR Arizona

Public Citizen

Public Justice Center

Pueblo Action Alliance

Putnam Progressives

Rachel Carson Council

Rainforest Action Network

RapidShift Network

RE Sources

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association

Redwood Alliance

Resource Renewal Institute

Responsible Alpha

RESTORE: The North Woods

Rethink Energy Florida

Rioo Arriba Concerned Citizens
RISE ST. James
Rise to Thrive
Rise Up West Virginia
Rising Communities
Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith
Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center
Rogue Climate
RootsAction.org
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
San Joaquin Valley Democratic Caucus
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
Santa Barbara Standing Rock Coalition
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
Santa Cruz for Bernie
SASD
Save EPA (former employees)
Save Our Illinois Land
Save Our Shores
Save Our Streams, PA
SAVE THE FROGS!
Save the Pine Bush
Schools for Climate Action
Scientist Rebellion, Turtle Island

SCOPE

SEE (Social Eco Education)

Seneca Lake Guardian

Sequoia ForestKeeper

Seventh Generation

Sheffield Saves

Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York

Small Business Alliance

SoCal350 Climate Action

"Social Action Council

of Dallas First Unitarian"

Social Justice Ministry of Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Society of Alternative Resources

Society of Native Nations

Solarize Albany

South Asian Fund For Education Scholarship and Training Inc

South Seattle Climate Action Network

South Shore Audubon Society

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

Southwest Organization for Sustainability

Sovereign Iñupiat for a Living Arctic

Spirit of the Sun, Inc.

St. Francis de Sales 96th St Laudato Si Team

Stand.earth

Stone Crab Alliance

Stone Quarry House

Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion

Students for Environmental Concerns at The University Of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Sunrise Movement

Sunrise Movement LA

Sunrise New Orleans

Sussex Health & Environmental Network

Sustainable Mill Valley

Sustainable Upton

Syracuse Cultural Workers

System Change Not Climate Change

TAO

Taproot Earth

Terra Advocati

Texas Campaign for the Environment

Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry

The Center on Race Poverty and the Environment

The CLEO Institute

The Climate Center

The Climate Reality Project, Western New York Chapter

The Enviro Show

The Green House Connection Center

The Last Plastic Straw

The Mind's Eye

The People's Justice Council

The Phoenix Group

The Quantum Institute

The Resilient40

The River Project

The Shalom Center

Therapists for Peace & Justice

Third Act Ohio

Third Act Virginia

Thomas Berry Forum at Iona University

Thrive at Life: Working Solutions

Tongass Forest Women's Earth & Climate Action Network

Torah Trumps Hate

Toxic Free NC

Transition Sebastopol

Tucson Climate Action Network

Turtle Island Restoration Network

Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois

Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lakes

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hidalgo County Texas

Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of North Carolina

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

Unite North Metro Denver

United American Indians of New England

United For Clean Energy

United Women in Faith

University of Southern California Environmental Student Assembly

UnKoch My Campus

Upper West Side Recycling

Valley Watch, Inc.

Vermont Interfaith Power & Light

Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance

Voces y Manos

Vote Climate

Wall of Women

Wasatch Clean Air Coalition

Waterkeeper Alliance

Waterspirit

WESPAC Foundation, Inc.

West Dryden Residents Against the Pipeline

West End Revitalization Association

Western Environmental Law Center

Western Slope Businesses for a Livable Climate

Western Watersheds Project

Wild Heritage, Project of Earth Island Institute

Wild Idaho Rising Tide

Wild Nature Institute

WildEarth Guardians

WITNESS

Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)

Womxn from the Mountain

Working for Racial Equity

Xun Biosphere Project

Youth United for Climate Crisis Action

Zero Hour