

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
[July 18, 2015]

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Boston Stands With Activists Around The Country To Say ‘Shell No’ To Drilling In The Arctic

Kayaktivists Gathered on the Charles River to Call on President Obama to Stop Shell

[Cambridge, MA] -- On Saturday, activists gathered on the Charles River in Cambridge to say ‘Shell No’ to Shell Oil’s plan to drill in the Arctic this summer. If not stopped, Shell will begin drilling in the Arctic’s Chukchi Sea in a matter of weeks.

Since purchasing the leases, Shell has committed one mistake after another. In 2012, its rig ran aground in what the Coast Guard classified as an “inadequate assessment of management and risks,” and then just the other week, it put a three-foot gash in the side of a ship meant to break through ice.

“The President’s own advisers have warned that there is a 75 percent likelihood of a major oil spill if anyone drills in the Arctic, and the science warns that the continued development of dirty fuels will increase the effects of climate disruption. Shell’s record of screw-ups in the Arctic would be comic if the results were not potentially so tragic. It’s time for President Obama to preserve his environmental legacy and pull the plug on Shell before the company does any further damage to the environment – or themselves,” **said Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club.**

Despite its series of reckless mistakes, Shell is just one permit away from being able to drill in the Arctic. Should Shell develop its leases, there is a near guarantee of environmental disaster and an absolute guarantee of further climate disruption. The science is definitive that the only safe place for dirty fuels is in the ground.

“From Exxon Valdez to Deepwater Horizon to the spills this past week in Alberta and Wyoming, we know that drilling equals spilling and killing,” said Emily Norton, Director of the Massachusetts Sierra Club chapter. “The time is now to get off oil and invest in clean energy alternatives.”

Saturday’s event was held in unison with sixteen events in twelve states around the country, calling on President Obama to revoke Shell’s leases and protect the Arctic from the lethal dangers of drilling.

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