May 14, 2018

We, the undersigned investors representing \$2.52 trillion in assets under management, oppose any efforts to develop oil and gas in the remote and pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northeast Alaska, and we strongly urge oil and gas companies, and the banks that fund them, not to initiate any oil and gas development in the Arctic Refuge.

We are gravely concerned about the climate, financial and reputational risks associated with pursuing a speculative fossil fuel source that will likely become uneconomical as the world rapidly shifts towards clean energy sources. Destroying this wilderness area would also have devastating human and ecological impacts.

Financial Risk: Many corporations, governments and investors are developing business plans that assume a 2 degree Celsius climate risk scenario. Financial regulators, analysts and other experts have also endorsed the importance of climate risk analysis, noting that a carbon budget consistent with a 2°C target will render most fossil assets unburnable. Thus, making any capital investments to pursue Arctic Refuge oil would be an irresponsible business decision, at the very time when we are transitioning away from fossil fuels. Oil company assessments and independent research analyses project that global oil demand will decline as electric cars and other clean technologies continue to increase market share and global economies work to keep within a 2 degree scenario carbon budget.

**Reputational Risk:** The majority of Americans oppose drilling in the Arctic Refuge. Research commissioned by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication shows that 70% of American voters oppose drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Any oil company or bank that supports drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge faces enormous reputational risk and public backlash. Their brands would be associated with destroying pristine wilderness, contributing to the climate crisis, and trampling on human rights.

Human Rights Impacts: The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is central to the subsistence lifestyle and culture of the Gwich'in, an Alaska Native tribe whose people have lived in the region for thousands of years. The Gwich'in hunt porcupine caribou, which comprise up to 80 percent of the Gwich'in diet, thanks to a herd that is nearly 200,000 strong. Oil and gas development in the Refuge would degrade the health of this caribou herd, and negatively impact the Gwich'in people. As Bernadette Demientieff, Executive Director of the Gwich'in Steering Committee said: "For us, protecting this place is a matter of physical, spiritual and cultural survival. It is our basic human right to continue to feed our families and practice our traditional way of life. Oil exploration in the Arctic Refuge coastal plain would be a human rights violation. Our identity is not negotiable."

*Ecological Impacts:* The 19 million acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of the wildest places left on the planet. Originally set aside by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1960, the Arctic Refuge protects more abundant and diverse wildlife than any other conservation area in the fivenation circumpolar north, including calving caribou, rare musk oxen, denning polar bears and millions of migratory birds that nest or stage in the Refuge before traveling through every U.S. state and five continents. Roads, pipelines, gravel mines, airstrips and other facilities that would be developed to support exploration and development on the coastal plain would undermine the

wilderness character of the Refuge, fragment habitat and displace wildlife. Millions of gallons of fresh water, needed to support drilling activities, could be drained from fragile Arctic rivers. And oil spills, which already occur on the North Slope, would harm fish and wildlife.

In summary, we strongly urge banks and oil and gas companies to honor their fiduciary duty to investors and refuse to engage in drilling in the Arctic Refuge. We, as investors, encourage expanding support for the wide range of clean energy solutions and sustainable industries in Alaska, instead of helping to destroy this natural wonder.

## Signed,

Aargauische Pensionskasse (APK), Switzerland

Achmea Investment Management

**ACTIAM** 

Adrian Dominican Sisters

Alaska Conservation Foundation

Ario Advisory

As You Sow

**Aviva Investors** 

Bernische Lehrerversicherungskasse, Switzerland

**BNP Paribas AM** 

**Boston Common Asset Management** 

Caisse de pensions de l'Etat de Vaud (CPEV), Switzerland

Caisse de pensions ECA-RP, Switzerland

Caisse de prév. des Fonctionnaires de Police & des Etablissements Pénitentiaires, Switzerland

Caisse de Prévoyance des Interprètes de Conférence (CPIC), Switzerland

Caisse intercommunale de pensions (CIP), Switzerland

Caisse paritaire de prévoyance de l'industrie et de la construction (CPPIC), Switzerland

Caja Ingenieros Gestión

CAP Prévoyance, Switzerland

CCAP Caisse Cantonale d'Assurance Populaire, Switzerland

CIEPP - Caisse Inter-Entreprises de Prévoyance Professionnelle, Switzerland

Clean Yield Asset Management

Community Environmental Council of Santa Barbara

**Compton Foundation** 

Congregation of St. Joseph

**Dana Investment Advisors** 

Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise

The David Rockefeller Fund

Dignity Health

Dir. CSR

Domini Impact Investments LLC

Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids

Dominican Sisters of San Rafael

EdenTree Investment Management Ltd

**Encourage Capital** 

The Episcopal Church

Etablissement Cantonal d'Assurance (ECA VAUD), Switzerland

Ethos Foundation, Switzerland

Everence and the Praxis Mutual Funds

First Affirmative Financial Network

Fondation de la métallurgie vaudoise du bâtiment (FMVB), Switzerland

Fondation Leenaards, Switzerland

Franciscan Sisters of Allegany NY

Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration

Friends Fiduciary Corporation

**Generation Investment Management** 

Green Alpha Advisors

Impax Asset Management LLC

Ircantec

**JLens** 

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Kalliopeia Foundation

**LAPFF** 

Leadership Team of the Felician Sisters of North America

Manaaki Foundation

Maryknoll Sisters

Mennonite Education Agency

Mercy Health

Mercy Investment Services, Inc.

Midwest Coalition Responsible Investment

Miller/Howard Investments, Inc.

Mirova

Nest Sammelstiftung, Switzerland

New York State Common Retirement Fund

**Newground Social Investment** 

Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment

Ostrum Asset Management

Pathfinder Asset Management

Pax World Funds

Pensionskasse Caritas, Switzerland

Pensionskasse der Stadt Winterthur, Switzerland

Pensionskasse Stadt Luzern, Switzerland

Pensionskasse Unia, Switzerland

Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation

Portfolio Advisory Board, Adrian Dominican Sisters

Prévoyance Santé Valais (PRESV), Switzerland

Prévoyance.ne, Switzerland

Priests of the Sacred Heart, US Province

Profelia Fondation de prévoyance, Switzerland

**Progressive Asset Management** 

Prosperita Stiftung für die berufliche Vorsorge, Switzerland

Region VI Coalition for Responsible Investment

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary WPA

Retraites Populaires, Switzerland

Reynders, McVeigh Capital Management

School Sisters of Notre Dame - Central Pacific Province Shalom Office

School Sisters of Notre Dame Cooperative Investment Fund

Seventh Generation Interfaith Inc.

Sierra Club Foundation

Sisters of Bon Secours, USA

Sisters of Charity, Halifax

Sisters of St. Agnes Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Office

Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston

Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange

Sisters of the Presentation of Aberdeen, SD

**Skye Advisors** 

St. Galler Pensionskasse, Switzerland

Stiftung Abendrot, Switzerland

Storer

Tamalpais Trust

Terra Alpha Investments

Terre des hommes, Switzerland

The Ocean Foundation

The Prentice Foundation

The Sustainability Group of Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge

Tides

Tim Arai

Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment

Trillium Asset Management LLC

Trinity Health

UnipolSai

United Methodist Church Foundation

Veris Wealth Partners

Walden Asset Management

Wallace Global Fund

Wege Foundation

Will Parish

Zevin Asset Management