

From the Desk of:

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Sharon Seim, Planning Team Leader
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
101 12th Avenue, Room 236
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear MS. Seim:

I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to changing the designation of the 1002 section of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from its current status into that of Wilderness.

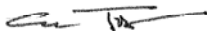
This is entirely unnecessary. There is no development planned for the area until Congress authorizes it. Once this area is placed into Wilderness status, the single largest economic opportunity in Alaska will no longer be available. This would be a horrible blow to the people of Alaska.

The people who live closest to the 1002 lands are strongly opposed to making more Wilderness designated lands in the area where they live. They face a tough enough situation as it is trying to scratch a living out of the land there. Designating this land as Wilderness will just make it all the more difficult for them to live.

In Alaska we do not need more land restrictions. Alaska contains 58 million acres of federal Wilderness. That is an area larger than the combined size of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire. Already, Alaska accounts for 53 percent of America's federal Wilderness areas. Taking more is just being needlessly greedy.

ANLICA clearly in statute and in spirit prohibits any further land takings by the federal government. Alaskans do not want or need any additional land protected by the federal government.

Sincerely,



Scott Thorson