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**[EXTERNAL] Docket # BLM\_AK\_FRN\_MO4500180291, Please finalize the strongest possible protections for the Arctic**

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**From** Grace Lamot <gracelamot@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Date** Tue 7/23/2024 4:40 PM  
**To** BLM\_NPRA\_SpecialAreas <BLM\_NPRA\_SpecialAreas@blm.gov>

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Dear Bureau of Land Management,

I am writing to urge you to adopt the strongest protections possible for the Western Arctic. Climate change is evident everywhere this summer, and the Arctic is warming at four times the rate of the rest of the planet. Yet the Western Arctic is also directly in the cross hairs of Big Oil, which holds leases there and wants to lock in oil development from the region for decades to come.

The special areas process you are initiating gives you an important opportunity to protect irreplaceable and critically important areas from harmful oil development. I am encouraged that you are soliciting input about resources that merit protection in special areas. I urge you to follow the scientific evidence, identify significant resource values warranting protection against harms from oil development activities, and develop special areas and maximum protection measures to protect those irreplaceable values .

One example of a region worthy of increased protection is the area between the Teshekpuk Lake and the Colville River, which is under intense threat from oil industry activities. The area provides calving and migrating grounds for the Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd, but this critically important habitat is currently not part of any special area. BLM should consider expanding the Teshekpuk Lake special area to include these migration and calving grounds and should adopt measures that will afford caribou maximum protection from oil development harm.

Sincerely,  
Grace Lamot  
New York, NY