

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION TO: <http://www.regulations.gov>
Docket No. FWS-R7-ES-2012-0009

June 18, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
18th and C Streets, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

On behalf of our organizations, which collectively represent millions of Americans who support strong action in response to climate change — and who care deeply about the polar bear, other species and human communities across the globe that are already suffering from the rapid warming of the Arctic and our planet — we urge you to give polar bears and the climate the protection they need and deserve under the law.

In 2008, when the Bush administration listed the polar bear as a “threatened” species; it also issued a special rule exempting the primary threat facing the bear, greenhouse gas pollution, from regulation under important Endangered Species Act programs.

Rather than reverse course, you have similarly acknowledged that polar bears are in deep trouble and proposed to again exempt the leading threat to their survival — greenhouse gas pollution — from regulation under the Act. This is in the face of scientific projections showing an overwhelming risk of extinction for two-thirds of the world’s polar bears — including all the bears in Alaska — by 2050, with a substantial risk that these bears could disappear within the next 10 to 20 years.

The rapid and accelerating sea-ice melt is part of an important climate feedback hastening further warming and melting of the Greenland ice sheet, contributing to rising sea levels. Without deep and rapid greenhouse pollution reductions, the loss of the Arctic sea-ice ecosystem will not only drive the polar bear extinct but will greatly exacerbate climate damages around the world. The pollution reductions necessary to protect the Arctic's sea ice are thus needed to avert some of the worst impacts for the rest of the world as well as the incredible Arctic itself.

We need your administration to drop the misguided polar-bear rule and develop one that protects polar bears rather than polluters.

Thank you so much for your attention to this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

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National & International Organizations

350.org

All-Creatures.org

Amazon Watch

Alliance for Climate Education

Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.

Animal Welfare Institute

Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Food Safety

CEO Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm Declaration of Peace

Citizens Climate Lobby

Clean Air Now

Corporate Ethics International

Defenders of Wildlife

Earth Day Network

Endangered Species Coalition

Food Empowerment Project

Friends of the Earth

Fund for Wild Nature

Global Green USA

Global Warming Education Network

Green Peace Corps

Greenpeace USA

Green Zionist Alliance

Humane Society International

Independent Environmental Conservation & Activism Network

Institute for Environmental Research and Education

Interfaith Power & Light

International Center for Technology Assessment

International Fund for Animal Welfare

International Institute to Study Climate Change in the Islamic World

Kids vs Global Warming

KyotoUSA

Labor Network for Sustainability

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Natural Resources Defense Council

No Impact Project

Ocean Conservation Research

One More Generation

Planet Rehab

Public Citizen

Rainforest Action Network

Religious Witness for the Earth

Resilient Futures International

SaveNature.org

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SAVE THE FROGS!

Sciencecorps

The Forest Foundation

The Pegasus Foundation

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

Unitarian Universalist Association United Nations Office

U.S. Climate Action Network

Wild Nature Institute

Wildlands CPR

Regional, State & Local Organizations

100grannies.org

350 Bay Area

Agua es Vida Action Team (AVAT)

Alameda Creek Alliance

Alaska Wilderness League

Animas Valley Institute

Antelope Valley Conservancy

Appalachian Mountain Advocates

Arizona Interfaith Power & Light

Arkansas Interfaith Alliance

Austin Green Energy Group

Battle Creek Alliance

Beacon Climate Action

Bedford Global Warming Action Coalition

Bellefonte Efficiency and Sustainability Team

Berkshire Environmental Action Team

Biodiversity Conservation Alliance

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

Boston Climate Action Network

Buckeye Forest Council

Californians for Western Wilderness

Cascadia Wildlands

Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy

Center for the Celebration of Creation

Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Church of Earth Healing

Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana

Citizens Against Environmental Destruction

Citizens Against Ruining the Environment

Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge

Citizens Environmental Coalition

Clean Air Carolina

Clean Air Rights for Everyone of NY

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Clean Energy Action Colorado
Climate Action Alliance of the Valley
Climate Change Initiative of Howard CO
Climate Mama
Climate Protection Campaign
Coalitions of Mutual Endeavor
Coal River Mountain Watch
Connecticut Citizen Action Group
Conservation Congress
Corpus Christi Clean Economy Coalition
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
Dogwood Alliance
Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society
Endangered Habitats League
Environmental Protection Information Center
EPP-LCA.org
Fairmont, Minnesota Peace Group
Four Harbors Audubon Society
Franciscan Action Network
Fresno Metro Ministry
Friends of Merrymeeting Bay
Friends of the Upper Delaware River
Grade Eight Team, North Miami Middle School
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Green Mountain Monastery
Greenovations
House of Grace
Interfaith Council for the Protection of Animals and Nature
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition
Life of the Land
Los Alamos Study Group
Massachusetts Climate Action Network
Massachusetts Forest Watch
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Mothers Against Tennessee River Radiation
Nebraska Wildlife Rehab, Inc.
New Jersey Media Corps
Occidental Arts and Ecology Center
Oregon Wild
Pacific Environment
Partnership for Sustainability in Delaware
Project Coyote
Redwood Alliance Climate Action Project
Renewable Energy Long Island

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RESTORE: The North Woods
Salmon Protection and Watershed Network (SPAWN)
Sane Energy Project
Save Our Sky Blue Waters
Sequoia Audubon Society
South Carolina Coastal Conservation League
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Stewards of the Earth
Students for Environmental Action
Students for Environmental Awareness
Sustainable Arizona
Sustainable Tompkins
Transition Howard County
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of California
University of Denver Sturm School of Law
Vast Horizons
Vermont Interfaith Power & Light
Vermonters for Sustainable Population
Watershed Stewards Academy
Wild Equity Institute
Windward Ahupua`a Alliance
Xun Biosphere Project

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