



CALL TO ACTION – April 22

PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

REDUCE YOUR PLASTICS USE TODAY!

Today is Earth Day and in recognition of this, one action for this week and for the future, is to actively work to reduce our use of plastic. For over a year, in our Call to Action we have asked you to stand up and reach out to get others in power to change their actions. Today, we are asking you to take action in your own life.

Americans used about 50 billion plastic water bottles last year. In 2014, Americans discarded about 33.6 million tons of plastic, but only 9.5 percent of it was recycled.

Plastics and their byproducts are littering our cities, oceans, and waterways, and contributing to health problems in humans and animals. Over 100 million marine animals are killed each year due to plastic debris in the ocean.

Fifty percent of the plastic we use is used just once and thrown away. Enough plastic is thrown away each year to circle the earth four times. The average American throws away approximately 185 pounds of plastic per year.

Reducing our plastic use is no easy task, but if we all do a little it will help a lot. Some easy ways to begin are to stop using plastic straws, party balloons or the plastic six-pack rings, but there are many more ways. Find a few ways you can reduce using plastics in your life and stick with it!

Earthday.org is focusing on changing attitudes and behavior about plastics to significantly reduce plastic pollution.

Please visit <https://www.earthday.org/yourjourney2018/>

We also recommend "20 Switches to Get Plastic Out of Your Life" at <https://www.onegreenplanet.org/lifestyle/20-switches-to-get-plastic-out-of-your-life/>

PROTECT OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

Join Senator Cantwell in opposition to the Trump/Zinke plan to begin oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

As part of the anti-environmental agenda of the Trump administration, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to implement leases for oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), one of the last, greatest wildernesses in the world and a national treasure. The coastal plain area of ANWR borders the Arctic Ocean, and is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including polar bears which are already under significant threat from loss of sea ice due to global climate change. Senator Cantwell has been one of the most consistent, and persistent, opponents of all attempts to increase oil and gas drilling activities in ANWR, and she is leading the opposition again. The Wikipedia article

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arctic_Refuge_drilling_controversy) provides excellent background on this. The BLM is an agency in the Department of Interior, headed by Ryan Zinke, and this is one of many anti-environmental actions he is pushing his agency to consider.

The first step in the BLM process of writing an EIS is called scoping, and the public comment period for the scoping step has just begun. While the comment period extends through June 19, providing input on scoping now is an excellent way to honor Earth Day. The purpose of scoping is to allow the public to suggest the kinds of alternatives that should be evaluated in the EIS, and the kinds of impacts that should be assessed for each alternative. If there is not support for including alternatives that are environmentally benign, or for assessing impacts to important resources such as polar bears and subsistence food sources that native people rely on, then BLM may be free to give them scant attention in the EIS. Strong public support forces BLM to treat them comprehensively, so this is a critical step in the EIS process.

This is also a good opportunity to let Senator Cantwell know that you support her efforts, and encourage her to maintain them.

ACTION: Send your input to the BLM regarding the scoping process. Comments are accepted through a web site, via email, or via regular mail. The BLM web page provides the details on how to submit:

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage¤tPageId=152109>

Comments should focus on:

- The importance of including a comprehensive analysis of a “No leasing” alternative. BLM is required to analyze a No Action alternative, but they are not necessarily required to be comprehensive. Since the Republican tax cut legislation included a directive to BLM to implement a leasing program, BLM may try to argue the No Action alternative is not consistent with the law, and so does not require much attention. Significant public support for the No Leasing alternative is a good counter to that.
- The types of impacts that you believe BLM should consider. This is your chance to tell BLM what is important to you about ANWR. Is it the quality of the wilderness, or the pristine environment that supports amazing animals like caribou, polar bears, wolves and millions of migratory birds, or the importance of the subsistence resources to help natives maintain their culture and get the nutrition they need to stay healthy, or something else? You should insist that BLM must analyze the impacts to the attributes of ANWR that you cherish.
- And, the importance of BLM conducting a thorough review of the cumulative impacts of oil and gas drilling activities on ANWR. This means that they must consider other, ongoing threats such as climate change and the cumulative effect of drilling activities on top of existing threats. Current climate change effects include loss of permafrost, loss of sea ice, rapid northward movement of the tree line (which changes the habitat from tundra to spruce forest), increased coastal erosion, and changes in the timing of flowering and insect emergence in relation to the needs of the birds and animals that depend on them.

ACTION: Call Maria Cantwell (253)572-2281

Script for support for Senator Cantwell: Hello, my name is _____, and I am a member of Olympia Indivisible. Please let the Senator know that I appreciate her steadfast opposition to expansion of oil and gas drilling activities into the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and that I urge her to continue to be a leader in opposing those activities. Thank her very much for her leadership and vision on this important issue.

EPA HEAD SCOTT PRUITT MUST GO

The long history of Scott Pruitt's skirting ethics continues. In an article in the [Sunday NY Times](#), the following was reported. Pruitt purchased a residence in Oklahoma City through a shell company from a telecommunications (SBC) lobbyists at a discount. Pruitt co-owned the property with a business partner whom now holds a job at the EPA. The loan for the mortgage was made by another business partner and now is a top aide at the EPA. None of Pruitt's financial disclosures filings mention the shell company, disclosures must be reported after \$5,000.

When Pruitt was Attorney General for Oklahoma, he stopped an inquiry into a bribery case involving the telecommunications company that would allow SBC to collect federal tax savings that should have refunded to the customers. Pruitt introduced legislation that would make it "harder for Oklahoma workers to claim certain kinds of injury compensation", helping Pruitt's business partner in a baseball team and future campaign chairman.

Pruitt's over the top spending did not start when he became EPA chief. He channeled state contracts to friends, moved the Attorney General office to high rise, with rent four times as much. His political action committee that he started in 2015, was in the same high rise, with only 9% of the money going to candidates.

After arriving in Washington, the spending continues, chartering a jet to a Superfund site in Colorado, where his business partners attended. The same ones that are employed at the EPA. The other ethics violations are using agency security for a trip, frequent travel to Oklahoma, meeting with National Mining Association to leave the Paris climate change agreement, his opposition to the Clean Water Act at a Cattlemen s Association meeting, spending tax dollars on his 24 hour security detail, a trip to Morocco, purchases of bullet proof vests, a secure phone booth, exceeding spending on art, use of the Clean Water Act to give pay raises, dismissal of scientists on the advisory board and replacements from industry, and now undisclosed e-mail addresses.

ACTION: Call Maria Cantwell (253)572-2281, Patty Murray (253)572-3636, Denny Heck (360) 459-8514

Call our members of Congress asking them to work to get Pruitt to resign. Thank Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray for introducing 5 days ago a Senate Resolution expressing NO Confidence in Pruitt.

ENDORSEMENTS

Coming Soon: Initiatives Vote

This is a head's up. Our new Electoral teams are hard at work and we will be sending out some initiatives for our membership to consider endorsing this week: [I-1600 Universal Healthcare for Washington State](#) and [I-1631 Protect Washington Act](#). We may also send [I-1637 No Gun Until 21](#). These will be coming to you via OpaVote – a voting system recommended by Indivisible 435 which we will be using for our member votes on endorsing candidates. Filing for offices closes May 18 and we expect to get that ballot out around May 31.

DONATE TO OUR CAUSE

We have come together on a momentous journey together to protect our democracy, and we have learned this requires significant commitment and resources. We spent our first year donating a massive amount of our own labor, tapping our personal caches of supplies and materials, and financing all of our activities, often through the generosity of team leaders and team members. Our members have kindly put some dollars in the donate basket at our membership meetings and that helps as well.



Pam says this wistful puppy wants you to donate.

We are now stepping up in electoral and legislative politics and our objectives for Year Two have increased substantially. We want to win big and flip the House in 2018. We need as much effort and money as was given last year and more, particularly more consistent and reliable financial support.

We hope to make some big purchases this year that will help us do this work. Two examples: For a fee-per-use, we can launch technology that will allow our 650 +- members to vote securely on as we move to making endorsements and ensure our confidence in the outcome of those votes. That will cost us \$80 every time we vote. Further, the GOTV (Get Out The Vote) and the Membership Teams both need permanent tables, chairs and tents to conduct their numerous events year-round in all weather. (The GOTV team just financed their own tent. Woo Hoo!)

We are asking those of you who have the financial resources to make a significant donation through our website. It is easy to do. Please go to our OI website NOW and click on the Donate link (<https://www.olympiaindivisible.com/donate.html>). If you run into any problems making a donation, please contact indivisibletom@gmail.com. Please remember we are not a 503c corporation and you do not get a tax deduction when you donate. Instead, you get to make a difference in defeating the Trump/Republican agenda. That is a mighty nice benefit.

We THANK YOU!

COMING SOON

NO TGIF this week – enjoy ARTS WALK!

<https://olyarts.org/artswalk/>

April 25 Wednesday (7-8:30 pm) (please arrive by 6:45 pm)

Get Out The Vote Training Session

Join us for a presentation about a fun, easy and creative way to help GET OUT THE VOTE for important races across the country *from the comfort of your home*.

You will learn how to send friendly, handwritten reminders to targeted voters giving liberals/progressives a winning edge in close, key races.

Location: Thurston County Courthouse, Room 152

RSVP to: anyindivisibleevents@gmail.com

May 2, Wednesday (2-3:30pm)

New Member Orientation

RSVP to: olyindinmorsvp@gmail.com

This week's Call to Action brought to you by Mindy Allen, Joni Brill, Karen Lichtenstein, Bill Tweit and Tom Dyer.