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March 28, 2007

The Honorable Jerry Carroll  
Mayor of the City of Fort Yukon  
P.O. Box 269  
Fort Yukon, AK 99740

Dear Mayor Carroll:

On behalf of our mutual interests, I bring to your attention a proposed decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to list polar bears as 'threatened' under the Endangered Species Act. The Fish and Wildlife Service published the proposed rule in the Federal Register on January 9, 2007 ([www.regulations.gov/](http://www.regulations.gov/)). The public's opportunity to present information and comments related to the proposal will close April 9, 2007. We share the Service's concern to ensure that complete and accurate information is available for consideration of a final decision.

Polar bears are important to Alaskans as an integral component of our Arctic ecology. Polar bears are reliant on sea ice to access food resources and for denning. The Arctic area is believed by many scientists to be warming faster than the rest of the world. Based on predictions that there will be no sea ice during late summer each year, the Fish and Wildlife Service predicts that polar bears are likely to be threatened with extinction within 45 years. Their sea ice modeling does not consider alternate predictions from other probable sea ice models and does not consider the polar bears' ability to adapt to changing conditions as evidenced by their survival through two prior warming eras.

If the Service decides to list polar bears under the Endangered Species Act, all federal agencies must evaluate their actions to ensure that activities they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of polar bears or are not likely to result in adverse modification to any critical habitat. If an action may affect the species or critical habitat, the federal agency must enter into formal consultation with the Service. The Act also prohibits activities that might harass, harm, pursue, or kill the species or alter their habitat. Thus, a listing could make it difficult to obtain any federal permits that have the potential to affect polar bears or their habitat.

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The proposed listing has the potential to increase the workload of our state and local agencies and may negatively impact the economy of your area. In addition to the best data for modeling, the Service needs the best possible information on existing conservation measures that the international, national, state, and local governments implement to protect the polar bears and their habitat. Thus, I urge you to provide any information that may be useful to the Service in their decision during the public comment period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Sarah Palin  
Governor

cc: Denby Lloyd, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game