**\*GROUPS\***

May XX, 2019

Dear Congressman [Huffman/Grijalva/Lowenthal]:

On behalf of our millions of members and activists, we write to thank you for your extraordinary leadership at the House Natural Resources Committee markup of the Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act (H.R. 1146). We are extremely grateful for your engagement at the markup, and your tireless commitment in the fight to save America’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

As you are all too aware, we are at a pivotal point in the decades-long fight to protect the Arctic Refuge from destruction. Since the 2017 tax bill, the Trump administration has barreled ahead to permit seismic testing and oil and gas lease sales on the Arctic Refuge’s pristine coastal plain. Unless blocked, the Trump administration could soon open these lands to polar bear-crushing thumper trucks, earth-scarring oil rigs, and climate change-causing resource extraction.

By halting the Trump administration in its scheme to industrialize the Arctic Refuge, H.R. 1146 presents an opportunity for Congress to choose preservation over destruction of America’s grandest wildlife reserve; to defend the Gwich’in people rather than squander vital subsistence habitat; to protect imperiled species instead of hastening their decline; to prioritize public interest above corporate profit.

By including H.R. 1146 in your very first markup, the House Natural Resources Committee recognizes that passing this legislation is not simply important; it is essential to preserving the Arctic Refuge—its native people, irreplaceable public lands and wildlife, and fragile climate—for future generations.

Once again, we sincerely thank you for your dedication and perseverance in this fight. Our organizations and our members will continue to stand with you and pour our time, energy and resources into seeing this bill through the finish line.

Sincerely,