

**Alaska Wilderness Action · American Bird Conservancy · Braided River
Center for Biological Diversity · Defenders of Wildlife · Earthjustice
EcoFlight · Endangered Species Coalition · Environment America
Environmental Protection Information Center · Eyak Preservation Council
Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges · Friends of the Earth US
League of Conservation Voters · National Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation · National Wildlife Refuge Association
Natural Resources Defense Council · Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Sierra Club · Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
The Wilderness Society · Western Watersheds Project**

June 20, 2019

RE: Vote NO on Duncan/Young/Gosar amendment 143 (#130) to weaken protections for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, we urge you to oppose amendment 143 offered by Representatives Duncan, Young and Gosar to the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies omnibus appropriations bill (#130 to Division C of H.R. 3055), which would strike a provision aimed at ensuring that the oil and gas lease sales in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge generate the expected revenue as promised in the 2017 Tax Act.

In the 2017 Tax Act, Congress mandated new oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, despite the overwhelming opposition of the American people. This law estimated that the oil and gas lease sales will generate \$1 billion in federal revenue. The Arctic Refuge provision, which is currently included in the Interior bill, requires the Bureau of Land Management to set a minimum bid on what companies must pay to lease part of the Arctic Refuge's fragile Coastal Plain for drilling. This billion-dollar claim was used to sell oil and gas leasing in the Arctic Refuge to Congress even though the average Alaska North Slope bid since 2000 is just \$31 per acre, orders of magnitude below the \$2,000+ per acre needed to meet projected revenues. A central part of this provision is to make sure the federal government is looking out for the American taxpayer.

It is a matter of fiscal responsibility for us to require that any lease sale generate the revenue promised in the 2017 Tax Act. The Duncan/Young/Gosar amendment to strike the Arctic Refuge provision makes no fiscal sense – as this provision holds Congress accountable to the promises it made in 2017, and it ensures that oil and gas lease sales generate the expected revenue for the American taxpayer and the people of Alaska. We should not be sacrificing one of our most treasured public lands to the lowest bidder.

The Arctic Refuge is home to polar bears, musk oxen, more than 200 species of birds, and the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, which has sustained the Gwich'in Nation physically and spiritually for millennia. The Arctic Refuge is one of the world's last intact wild places, and the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge is a perfect example of a place that should be off-limits to oil drilling and industrial development.

We urge you to stand in support of protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and vote NO on Duncan/Young/Gosar amendment 130 to strike the Arctic Refuge provision.

Sincerely,

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