**Alaska Wilderness Action \***

September XX, 2019

The Honorable Raul Grijalva

U.S. House of Representatives

House Natural Resources Committee

1511 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman

U.S. House of Representatives

House Natural Resources Committee

1527 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal

U.S. House of Representatives

House Natural Resources Committee

108 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Debra Haaland

U.S. House of Representatives

House Natural Resources Committee

1237 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Grijalva, Lowenthal, Huffman and Haaland,

On behalf of the members and supporters of the above-signed organizations, we would like to express our gratitude for your support in passing H.R. 1146, the Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act. This legislation would restore protections for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and stop the giveaway of America’s last remaining intact wildlands to oil and gas companies at rock bottom prices. It is because of the leadership of champions like you in Congress that we were able to pass this legislation to protect these iconic public lands.

On the same day that H.R. 1146 was passed by the House, the Trump administration released the final Environmental Impact Statement in preparation for a lease sale in the Arctic Refuge in 2019. This vote was essential, given that this administration is barreling forward with plans for development in the Coastal Plain. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge would not only irreparably harm this treasured landscape it would also exacerbate the effects of climate change. Oil and gas development have no place in America’s last great wilderness, especially at a time when we should be taking actions to halt climate change rather than contribute to it.

Voting to pass H.R. 1146 in the House of Representatives was a critical moment in the path to restoring protections to the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge. Your leadership has been necessary to elevate the importance of protecting the Arctic Refuge. We continue to need this leadership now more than ever, especially given the impending threats from this administration. We look forward to continuing our work with you in the fight to restore protections to the Coastal Plain, and to defeat any threats to this iconic place for the remainder of this Congress and in the future.

Sincerely,

Alaska Wilderness Action