March XX, 2021

Dear Senator/Representative:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, we urge you to cosponsor the Arctic Refuge Protection Act (S. 282/H.R. 815). This critical legislation would restore essential protections for the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge while also safeguarding the subsistence rights of Arctic Indigenous peoples. A provision included in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 mandated two oil and gas lease sales for the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge and despite a failed first sale, without congressional action a second sale is mandated. By restoring protections to the coastal plain, this legislation sides with the vast majority of the American public who oppose oil and gas drilling in one of America’s greatest remaining wild places. Congress must take action to prevent the shortsighted destruction of this treasured wildlife refuge.

The Gwich’in people call the coastal plain “The Sacred Place Where Life Begins” and have relied for thousands of years on the Porcupine caribou that use it as their calving and nursery grounds. Oil and gas development threaten to alter caribou migration and population and destroy the coastal plain’s natural values, risking the way of life of the Gwich’in and other Indigenous peoples who rely on those values. Considered the biological heart of the Arctic Refuge, the coastal plain also provides critical denning habitat for the threatened Southern Beaufort Sea population of polar bears and nesting grounds for millions of migratory birds. As the most critical part of the Arctic Refuge’s delicate ecosystem, the coastal plain is a perfect example of a place that should be off-limits to oil drilling and industrial development.

Pro-drilling advocates claimed oil and gas leasing in the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge would provide a $1 billion offset to the 2017 Tax Act. These fraudulent assertions about projected revenues were disproven by the recent Arctic Refuge oil and gas lease sale held in January 2021. A complete financial failure, the lease sale only raised approximately $6 million for the U.S. Treasury, less than 1% of the $1 billion in revenue promised to American taxpayers. The lease sale also failed to receive industry interest, with only half of the tracts receiving bids, no major oil companies bidding, and the state of Alaska placing nearly all of the winning bids. Alaska is considered one of the most expensive sources of oil in the United States to produce, and with the six largest U.S. banks and two dozen international banks adopting policies to preclude financing for Arctic oil and gas development, it is no wonder companies are not interested in drilling in the Arctic Refuge.

Warming three times as fast as the global average, the Arctic is ground zero for climate change. Proposed oil development on the coastal plain threatens to release a carbon bomb, exploiting an estimated 10 billion barrels of oil, an amount which threatens to release 4.3 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent into the atmosphere. This is equivalent to the annual emissions from more than 1,100 coal-fired power plants and would contribute significantly to the climate crisis. Just the process of extracting oil and gas from the coastal plain alone would create an additional 26 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions throughout the development’s projected lifetime. We need legislation that protects intact ecosystems, not oil and gas development that poses serious biological, cultural and climate threats.

With a second lease sale mandated under the 2017 Tax Act, legislative action must be taken this Congress to prevent a second sale and restore protections for the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge. Shielding the coastal plain from oil and gas development has long been one of the highest profile conservation issues in the United States — we need to protect this irreplaceable land, now more than ever. It is up to us to preserve important places like this for our children’s children and to respect the Alaska Native cultures that have depended on these lands for generations. **We urge you to cosponsor the Arctic Refuge Protection Act to help protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from irreversible harm.**

Sincerely,

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| Gwich'in Steering Committee |
| Acadia Center |
| Advocates for the Environment |
| Akron Audubon |
| Alaska Wilderness League Action |
| Minnesota Audubon Society |
| Alliance for Climate Education |
| American Packrafting Association |
| Anthropocene Alliance |
| Arctic Audubon Society |
| Arkansas Valley Audubon Society |
| Audubon of Western Everglades |
| Audubon Rockies |
| Azul |
| Bexar Audubon Society |
| Blue Ridge Audubon Chapter |
| Bold Alliance |
| Bozeman Birders |
| Brighter Green |
| Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon |
| Businesses for a Livable Climate |
| Call to Action Colorado |
| Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife |
| CatholicNetwork.US |
| Center for Biological Diversity |
| Central Westchester Audubon Society |
| Chequamegon Audubon |
| Chicago Audubon Society |
| Citizens’ Climate International |
| Clean Energy Action |
| Clean Water Action |
| Climate Hawks Vote |
| Climate Law & Policy Project |
| Coalition of Refuge Friends and Advocates |
| Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate |
| Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes |
| Conservation Northwest |
| Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship |
| Cultural Survival |
| Cumberland-Harpeth Audubon Society |
| Defenders of Wildlife |
| Desert Rivers Audubon Society |
| Detroit Audubon |
| Dominican Sisters |
| Downeast Chapter of Maine Audubon |
| Earth Action, Inc. |
| EARTHDAY.ORG |
| Earthjustice |
| Earthworks |
| East Ozarks Audubon |
| Endangered Species Coalition |
| Environment America |
| Environment California |
| Environment Colorado |
| Environment Connecticut |
| Environment Florida |
| Environment Georgia |
| Environment Illinois |
| Environment Maine |
| Environment Maryland |
| Environment Massachusetts |
| Environment Minnesota |
| Environment Nevada |
| Environment New Jersey |
| Environment North Carolina |
| Environment Oregon |
| Environment Texas |
| Environment Virginia |
| Environment Washington |
| Environmental Protection Information Center |
| Eyak Preservation Council |
| Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition |
| Families for a Livable Climate |
| Food & Water Watch |
| Fort Worth Audubon Society |
| Four Harbors Audubon Society |
| Franciscan Action Network |
| Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges |
| Friends of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge |
| Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge |
| Friends of Kauai Wildlife Refuges |
| Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge |
| Friends of the Earth |
| Friends of the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge |
| Friends of the Mariana Trench |
| Friends of the Tampa Bay National wildlife Refuges |
| Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex |
| Fund Our Future |
| Genesee Valley Audubon Society |
| Grand Valley Audubon Board Member |
| Greater Akron Audubon Society |
| Greater Ozarks Audubon |
| GreenLatinos |
| Greenpeace USA |
| Green-Rock Audubon Society |
| Hip Hop Caucus |
| Hispanic Access Foundation |
| Hispanic Federation |
| Indigenous Environmental Network |
| Indivisible Anchorage |
| Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility |
| International Fund for Animal Welfare |
| Kittitas Audubon |
| Klamath Forest Alliance |
| Lake County Audubon Society |
| League of Conservation Voters |
| Madison Audubon Society |
| Maine Conservation Voters |
| Marion Audubon Society |
| Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter |
| Missouri River Bird Observatory |
| National Audubon Society |
| National Wildlife Refuge Association |
| Natural Resources Defense Council |
| Nelson Century Farms |
| North Cascades Audubon Society |
| Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness |
| Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society |
| Northern Alaska Environmental Center |
| Nuclear Information and Resource Service |
| Oakland Audubon Society |
| Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society |
| Olympic Climate Action |
| Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society |
| Pacific Environment |
| Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society |
| Patagonia |
| Pelican Island Audubon Society |
| PennEnvironment |
| Polar Bears International |
| Prescot Audubon Society |
| Prince George's Audubon Society |
| Progressive Democrats of America |
| Pueblo Action Alliance |
| Rachel Carson Council |
| RapidShift Network |
| Raptors Are The Solution |
| Redbud Audubon Society |
| Region VI Coalition for Responsible Investment |
| San Diego Audubon Society |
| Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society |
| Santa Clara University |
| Seeding Sovereignty |
| Seminole Audubon Society |
| Sierra Club |
| Sisters of Mary Reparatrix |
| Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York |
| Save Our Illinois Land |
| South Mountain Audubon Society |
| Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance |
| Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society |
| St Lucie Audubon |
| Stand Up Alaska |
| Sustainable Tri-Cities |
| Tampa Audubon Society |
| Texas Campaign for the Environment |
| The Wilderness Society |
| Topeka Audubon Society, Kansas |
| Trinity River Audubon Center |
| Trustees for Alaska |
| Venice Area Audubon Society |
| Ventura Audubon Society |
| Vermont Conservation Voters |
| Veterans For Peace |
| Wachiska Audubon |
| Washington Wild |
| Western Environmental Law Center |
| Western Watersheds Project |
| White River Group of Sierra Club |
| Winter Wildlands Alliance |
| Wisconsin Environment |
| Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society |
| Women's Earth and Climate Action Network |
| World Wildlife Fund |
| 350 New Hampshire |
| 350 Seattle |
| 350 Vermont |
| 350 Hawaii |