

**Alaska Wilderness League · The Wilderness Society · National Audubon Society  
National Wildlife Refuge Association · Earthjustice · Defenders of Wildlife  
Braided River · Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges · Sierra Club  
League of Conservation Voters · Natural Resources Defense Council  
Trustees for Alaska · Center for Biological Diversity**

August 29, 2018

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Calvert, and Ranking Member McCollum:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we urge you to oppose the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil industry giveaway included in H.R. 6147, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2019. This poison pill would incentivize drilling in the Coastal Plain in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, permanently harming this crown jewel of America's public lands. Adding insult to injury, the provision would also give a percentage of the revenue from this sell-off to private for-profit Alaska Native regional corporations. No amount of revenue—let alone funneled to private companies-- is worth despoiling our nation's greatest wilderness. We oppose any efforts to advance oil and gas activities on the Coastal Plain.

At the end of last year, Congress passed H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Title II of this legislation was a provision, unrelated to tax policy, which authorized oil and gas activities on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge. The inclusion of this provision as part of a tax reconciliation bill means Refuge drilling was authorized without full and fair debate.

Similarly, section 422 of H.R. 6147, added as amendment by Representative Cole, is being rushed through without any hearings or full congressional debate. Congress should not pass legislation that incentivizes a suspect oil and gas drilling program. Instead, Congress should protect our public lands and promote and enhance development of new and cleaner sources of energy.

Under the Mineral Leasing Act and the Alaska Statehood Act, Alaska would receive 90 percent of the revenue generated by oil and gas leases and royalties on federal lands within the boundaries of the state. However, as one means of enabling last year's Arctic Refuge giveaway, congressional supporters of drilling reduced Alaska's share of speculative revenue from such drilling from 90 to 50 percent. This rider now attempts to amend law to further incentivize drilling in this pristine environment by funneling an additional 3% of Alaska's share to for-profit corporations. If embraced, would be the first time in our history that revenue from drilling on

Alaska's treasured public lands will go directly into the pockets of such corporations by an act of Congress—robbing taxpayers, federal coffers, and future generations alike.

Americans have stood together to protect the Arctic Refuge for decades, and today there is a larger, stronger and more diverse coalition than ever standing ready to fight to ensure this iconic landscape is protected for generations to come. Recent polls show that nearly two-thirds of voters oppose oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The 19.6 million-acre Arctic Refuge is a spectacular wilderness of boreal forests, rugged mountains, sweeping tundra vistas, wild rivers, coastal lagoons and barrier islands. The Refuge's 1.5 million-acre Coastal Plain – its biological heart – is home to more than 250 wildlife species including polar and brown bears, musk oxen, and birds that migrate from all 50 states and six continents each year. The Porcupine Caribou Herd, a primary subsistence food source for the indigenous Gwich'in people, migrates hundreds of miles each year to the Coastal Plain to give birth. To the Gwich'in, the Coastal Plain is the "Sacred Place Where Life Begins."

Protecting wild places such as the Arctic Refuge is a core American value. It is up to us to preserve these important places for our children's children, and to respect the cultures of people that have depended on these lands for generations. We strongly urge you to remove the poison pill riders in the Interior Appropriations Bill, including the Arctic Refuge drilling give away.