

July 21, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: Oppose H.J. Res. 106, Providing for the Congressional Disapproval of the Bureau of Land Management Rule “Central Yukon Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan”**

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries,

As Alaskans, we write in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 106, the Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) 2024 Central Yukon Resource Management Plan (RMP). Repealing this plan would eliminate critical protections for Alaska’s wildlife, ecosystems, and subsistence resources and ignore more than a decade of engagement and input from Alaska Native Tribes, local communities, and the public.

The Central Yukon RMP governs 13.3 million acres of public lands in central and northern Alaska, including the central Yukon River watershed and the Dalton Highway utility corridor. These lands are ecologically rich and culturally important, providing vital habitat for caribou, salmon, and Dall sheep, species that rural and Alaska Native communities rely on for food, tradition, and survival. These lands support important connectivity between several other federal conservation units, including five national wildlife refuges.

The plan responds to long-declining populations of salmon and caribou by designating:

- **3.6 million acres of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern** to protect subsistence values and sensitive habitats, including **critical salmon spawning habitat**;
- **746,000 acres of core caribou habitat** for two non-migratory herds;
- **4,600 acres of Dall sheep habitat** to preserve important alpine ranges from increasing pressures.

It also improves public access while conserving what makes these lands unique. The plan creates:

- **Two Backcountry Conservation Areas (666,000 acres)** that safeguard remote wildlands for traditional use, recreation, and subsistence; and
- **Three Special Recreation Management Areas (1.45 million acres)** that enhance hiking, camping, and wildlife viewing opportunities along the Dalton Highway, while protecting scenic and ecological values.

Overturning this plan would create chaos and confusion for land managers and the public. More troubling, the use of the Congressional Review Act means BLM would be barred from issuing a plan that is "substantially the same" in the future, no matter the need or changing conditions on the ground. That could lock millions of acres of public land into a stagnant management framework, disconnected from the needs of communities and the health of the land. And if this plan is undone, it could make it easier to permit the Ambler mining road, which poses a grave threat to caribou and fisheries vital to the lives and cultures of over 60 Alaska Native communities.

The Central Yukon RMP reflects years of collaboration and hard work by Alaskans who know and depend on these lands. It is a durable, responsible plan for protecting habitat, culture, and public access across a vast and vital landscape.

Please reject H.J. Res. 106 and uphold this collaborative plan for Alaska's future.

Sincerely,

Mollie & Sean Busby\*  
Co-Owners  
Arctic Hive  
Wiseman, AK

Heidi & Scott Schoppenhorst\*  
Co-Owners  
Boreal Lodging  
Wiseman, AK

Jack & Nicole Reakoff\*  
Resident/Subsistence Harvester/Guide  
Wiseman, AK

Rebecca Hicks\*  
Camp Support  
Coldfoot Camp  
Coldfoot, AK

Dr. Justin Birchell\*  
Resident  
Coldfoot, AK

Claire Padmos\*  
Resident  
Coldfoot, AK

Daniel Skarzynski\*  
Owner  
Dogtown Mushing  
Coldfoot, AK

Camryn Kaspari\*  
Science Teacher  
Coldfoot, AK

Steven Teshima\*  
Resident  
Wiseman, AK

Layton Birchell\*  
Employee  
Sukakpak Inc.  
Coldfoot, AK

Amber Birchell\*  
Resident  
Coldfoot, AK

Darrell M. Vent\*  
Tribal Member  
Huslia Tribe  
Huslia, AK

Kathy Geiges\*  
Resident  
Yukon River Camp  
Dalton Hwy MP 56  
Stevens Village, AK

Mary-Louise Abney\*  
Yukon River Camp  
Dalton Hwy MP 56  
Stevens Village, AK

John Gaedeke\*  
Owner  
Iniakuk Lake Wilderness Lodge  
Iniakuk Lake, AK

*\*Signer lives in the Central Yukon Planning Area, including the very small Alaskan towns of Wiseman and Coldfoot (est. year-round population ~20 people) located in the heart of the planning area.*

Maddie Halloran  
Alaska State Director  
Alaska Wilderness League  
Anchorage, AK

Sean McDermott  
Arctic Program Coordinator  
Northern Alaska Environmental Center  
Fairbanks, AK

Robert Sattler  
Senior Archeologist/NEPA Analyst  
Tanana Chiefs Conference  
Fairbanks, AK

Vicki Clark  
Executive Director  
Trustees for Alaska  
Anchorage, AK

Pamela Miller  
Executive Director  
Alaska Community Action on Toxics  
Anchorage, AK

Cooper Freeman  
Alaska Director  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Homer, AK

Matthew Jackson  
Senior Manager  
The Wilderness Society  
Anchorage, AK

Alex Johnson  
Arctic and Interior Alaska Campaign  
Director  
National Parks Conservation Association  
Anchorage, AK

Jennifer Hyde  
Federal Infrastructure Coordinator  
The Alaska Center  
Fairbanks, AK

Erik Grafe  
Deputy Managing Attorney, Alaska  
Earthjustice  
Anchorage, AK

Michelle Charlton  
Operations Coordinator  
Northern Alaska Tour Company  
Fairbanks, AK

Nathan Elswick  
First Chief  
Anvik Village  
Anvik, AK

Deborah Hall & Malinda Chase  
Board Director & President  
Deloy Ges, Inc.  
Anvik, AK

Wassily Alexie  
ITC President  
Iqumiut Tribal Council  
Russian Mission, AK

Jonathan Otto  
Member  
Kongiganak Tribal Council  
Kongiganak, AK

Jared Raymond  
Stebbins Community Associate Council  
Stebbins, AK

Andrea Feniger  
Alaska Chapter Director  
Sierra Club  
Anchorage, AK

Loren Karro & Kathleen O'Reilly-Doyle  
AK Soles, Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
Co-Leaders  
Palmer, AK

Shirley Fields  
Realty/Natural Resources Director  
Native Village of Fort Yukon  
Fort Yukon, AK

Doug Katchatag  
President  
Norton Bay Watershed Council  
Unalakleet, AK

James Landlord  
First Chief  
Asa'carsarmiut Tribal Council  
Mountain Village, AK

Ivan Demientieff  
First Chief  
Grayling IRA Tribal Council  
Grayling, AK

Darlene Isaac  
President  
Ohogamiut Traditional Council  
Marshall, AK

Wayne Moses  
Board Member  
Native Village of Elim  
Elim, AK

Robin Farmer  
Owner  
Robin Farmer Art  
Fairbanks, AK

Lois Epstein  
President  
LNE Engineering and Policy  
Anchorage, AK

Steven J. Opat  
Business Owner/Hunter/Fisherman/Guide  
Alaskan Odysseys  
Fairbanks, AK

Chad Brown  
President  
Love Is King Inc./Soul River Inc.  
Fairbanks, AK

Jayme Dittmar  
Director  
Northern Exposure Studios  
Fairbanks, AK

Shannon Donahue  
Executive Director  
Great Bear Foundation  
Haines, AK