

May 20, 2015

Dear Members of Congress,

As organizations and businesses from around the country, we urge you as Members of Congress to vote against any budget reconciliation bill that auctions off the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling. The Arctic Refuge is not a bargaining chip—it is home to an irreplaceable ecosystem and vital to the cultural survival of the Gwich'in Nation.

Set aside decades ago for protection, the Arctic Refuge is one of the most ecologically sensitive and culturally significant landscapes in the world. Bears, moose, wolves, muskoxen and over 250 species of migratory birds call the Arctic Refuge home, and each year the 218,000 Porcupine Caribou herd migrates to the Refuge's coastal plain to give birth to their young. Oil and gas drilling in the Arctic Refuge would threaten the integrity of this critical ecosystem, and in turn, jeopardize the wellbeing and food security of the communities that depend on it. For this reason, the Gwich'in Nation, who have lived in the region for thousands of years, strongly opposes any oil and gas development in the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge. The Gwich'in Nation has made their stance clear: the coastal plain is sacred, and it must remain protected. We stand with them in their fight for human rights, food security, and the preservation of their way of life.

The consequences of drilling here don't stop at the Refuge's borders. Drilling for oil in the Arctic Refuge will exacerbate the climate crisis in an area that is already ground zero for climate change. The Arctic is warming four times faster than the rest of the planet, and what happens here affects the entire globe—melting ice, rising sea levels, and disrupted weather patterns. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge is estimated to unleash 7.7 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>—the same as putting 1.5 million more cars on the road for 40 years—which would accelerate the climate crisis and fuel stronger and more life-threatening storms around the globe. We simply cannot afford this climate catastrophe.

Despite the grave climate, ecological, and human rights implications to drilling in the coastal plain, the Trump administration is pushing to open the Arctic Refuge to oil and gas leasing yet again as a supposed revenue-generating measure in the budget reconciliation process. But drilling in the Arctic Refuge won't lower the price at the pump and won't even make a dent in offsetting the proposed billions in tax cuts to billionaires.

Case in point: When Congress approved leasing in 2017, it was promised that sales would generate \$1.8 billion. But after two failed lease sales, the reality is clear: Big Oil didn't show up. No major banks will finance drilling in the Arctic Refuge. No major insurers will cover it. The oil industry itself knows this is a bad bet, yet some in Congress are pushing the same failed playbook—offering up public lands for private profits while taxpayers, wildlife, and future generations pay the price.

As a voice for our public lands, we the undersigned demand that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is protected from harmful oil and gas development. What happens in the Refuge impacts all Americans. The Arctic Refuge is not for sale, and it definitely shouldn't be part of a smart budget reconciliation bill. We call on you to vote against any budget that includes an Arctic Refuge drilling program and to stand up for the climate, wildlife, and communities that depend on it.

On behalf of the 129 undersigned,

350 Bay Area Action	Earthjustice
350 Triangle	Elders Climate Action
350Hawaii	Empower our Future
350Juneau	Endangered Species Coalition
Adventure Travel Conservation Fund	Environment America
Advocates for the Environment	Environmental Protection Information
AFGE Local 704	Center- EPIC
Alaska Soles, Great Old Broads for	Evergreen Audubon
Wilderness	Faith Action Network
Alaska Wilderness League	Fridays For Future NYC
All About Adventure	Fridays for Future USA
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments	Friends For Environmental Justice
American Friends Service Committee	Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc	Friends of the Earth
Arctic Audubon Society	Friends of the Lost Coast
Arkansas Valley Audubon Society	Futureswell
Audubon Alaska	Great Bear Foundation
Black Earth United	Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Boston Catholic Climate Movement	International Marine Mammal Project of EII
Braided River	Jewish Earth Alliance PA
Built by boltz	Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
Californians for Western Wilderness	Kickapoo Peace Circle
Center for Biological Diversity	Klamath Forest Alliance
CLEO INSTITUTE	League of Conservation Voters
Climable	Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
Climate Civics International	Love is King
Climate Equity Policy Center	Maine Unitarian Universalist State
Climate Hawks Vote	Advocacy Network
Climate Reality Project Massachusetts	Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Southcoast	Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action
Coalition to Protect New York	Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship	Minnesota Division, Izaak Walton League of
CPAWS Yukon	America
Defenders of Wildlife	Mission Green Global
Deignan Institute at Iona University	Monmouth County Audubon Society
Earth Ethics. Inc.,	Montana Environmental Information Center

NACCE  
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club  
National Wildlife Refuge Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
NC Climate Justice Collective  
New Energy Economy  
New Mexico Wild  
New York Progressive Action Network  
Northern Alaska Environmental Center  
Nuclear Energy Information Service  
NYPAN environmental committee  
Occupy Bergen County  
Ocean Conservation Research  
Oil Change International  
Olympic Peninsula Prairies  
Partnership for Policy Integrity  
Patagonia  
Peace, Justice, Sustainability, NOW  
People for a Healthy  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Plastic Pollution Coalition  
Positive Ripple Consulting  
Presente.org  
Project Outreach: Frac Sand Sentinel  
Protect Our Winters  
Protect the Kobuk  
Resource Renewal Institute  
RiSE for Environmental Justice  
Rise Up WV  
San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper  
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council  
Seeding Sovereignty  
Sierra Club

Social Eco Education  
Soul River Inc.  
South Shore Audubon Society  
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
Sovereign Iñupiat for a Living Arctic (SILA)  
Standing Trees  
Sunflower Alliance  
Sustainable Ocean Alliance  
Pacific Northwest  
The Climate Center  
The Rachel Carson Council  
The Unpopular Black  
The Wilderness Society  
TIAA-Divest!  
Tidelines Institute  
Tongass Forest Women's Earth & Climate  
Action Network  
Trustees for Alaska  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
Unitarian Universalist College of Social  
Justice  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
(UUSC)  
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic  
Community  
Valley Forge Audubon Society  
Virginia Interfaith Power & Light  
Washington Wild  
Western Watersheds Project  
Wild Heritage  
Wildlife for All  
Winter Wildlands Alliance  
Wolf Conservation Center