

November 17, 2025

Re: Oppose CRA Overturning Commonsense Management for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Leasing Program

Dear Leader Thune, Speaker Johnson, Leader Schumer, and Leader Jeffries:

CC: Members of Congress

On behalf of 140 groups and organizations, we write to urge your opposition to S.J.Res. 91 and H.J.Res.131, which would utilize the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to strike down the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) 2024 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's Coastal Plain Leasing Program. This misguided use of the CRA would overturn the recent ROD that intended to address some of the most glaring legal issues with the 2020 Trump administration plan and to provide some additional protections for polar bear habitat and the calving ground of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

Protecting the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is supported by the majority of the American public and has enjoyed decades of bipartisan support in Congress. After the region was opened to oil and gas in 2017, two oil and gas lease sales resulted in no industry interest, and no oil and gas company currently holds leases there. Nearly every major bank and insurer has pledged to not finance drilling in this region, recognizing its special importance and the fact that this iconic region is too expensive and too remote for any drilling to be profitable. That assessment of oil and gas' dismal prospects here was recently supported by the nonpartisan Taxpayers for Common Sense, whose analysis found that even under a pro-development administration, drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would not bring in any real return to taxpayers or private entities. Instead of using the CRA to overturn another land management plan without any input from the public, Congress should stop the political seesaw of management, and instead pass bipartisan protections for the Coastal Plain.

The impacts of using the CRA to overturn the ROD would cause regulatory chaos for all interested parties in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, from oil and gas lessees, to Tribal and subsistence users, to recreation and guiding interests. If this ROD was overturned, there would be no clarity as to what plan would remain in place governing the Coastal Plain, as the Department of the Interior has previously found that the former Trump administration ROD and environmental impact statement (EIS) had multiple legal deficiencies and are currently being challenged in court. A CRA to overturn the 2024 plan would add even more uncertainty to oil and gas leasing and conservation and management decisions in the Refuge.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of America's most irreplaceable landscapes and the area and the wildlife that depend on it have been stewarded for millennia by Indigenous people. The Arctic Refuge encompasses 19.6 million acres of wild lands, larger than the state of West Virginia. Hundreds of wildlife species rely on the Arctic Refuge's habitat, including polar bears, foxes, migratory birds, and caribou. Notably, the Gwich'in Nation relies on the Porcupine

Caribou Herd as a main food source and a cornerstone of their culture, and any development would impact the migration patterns and the Gwich'in way of life. The climate threat of burning Arctic Refuge oil is immense, with BLM estimating an additional 25 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions throughout the lifetime of the leasing program. Finally, oil and gas leasing in the Refuge is wildly unpopular with the American public: the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is an iconic, globally significant landscape that supports thriving wildlife and sustains subsistence traditions for communities across America's Arctic. This measure is the latest in a recent line of legislative attacks to sell off our public lands, and we urge you to oppose this misuse of the CRA.

Thank you,

350 Bay Area Action	Big Blue & You, Inc
350 Chicago	Bird Mentor
350 Colorado	Bowdoinham Physical Therapy
350 Colorado	Braided River
350Hawaii	Brighter Green
350Juneau	Californians for Western Wilderness
Alaska Community Action on Toxics	Carolina Ocean Alliance
Alaska Soles, Great Old Broads for Wilderness	CASE Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood
Alaska Wilderness League	CCAN
Alaska Wildlife Alliance	Center for Biological Diversity
Alliance of Maine Health Professionals for Climate Action	Center for Wildlife
American Bird Conservancy	Change the Chamber
American Friends Service Committee	Clean Water Action
Animal Defenders International	Climate Justice Alliance
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.	Climate Reality
Arctic Audubon Society	Climate Reality Greater Maryland
Arctic Village Council	Climate Reality Project - Northern Colorado Chapter
ARTivism Virginia	Concerned Healthcare Professionals of Pennsylvania
Beyond Extreme Energy	Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship

Coordinator for Tongass Women for Forests
Copper River Wild Salmon Co.
Cove Street Arts
Coyote Graphics
CPAWS Yukon
Creation Justice Ministries
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
Defenders of Wildlife
Don't Waste Arizona
Downeast Chapter of Maine Audubon
Earth Ethics, Inc.
Earthjustice
Elders Climate Action
Elders Climate Action Maryland
Elders Coalition for Climate Action
Environmental Protection Information Center- EPIC
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
Food & Water Watch
FracTracker Alliance
Freeport Wild Bird Supply
Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Lost Coast
Full Circle Leadership Center
Girl Plus Environment
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace USA
Gwich'in Steering Committee

Healthy Ocean Coalition
Heartfelt Energy Care, LLC
Hip Hop Caucus
Idle No More SF Bay
Indivisible Bangor (Maine)
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
International Marine Mammal Project
Intheshadowofthewolf
Iowa Audubon
Jewish Earth Alliance- PA
JUJustice Washington
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
Klamath Forest Alliance
Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety, and the Environment
League of Conservation Voters
Madhvi4EcoEthics
Maine Artist and Citizen Scientist
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mattole Restoration Council
Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action
Michigan Interfaith Power & Light
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League of America
Movement Rights
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government
Natural Resources Defense Council

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light

New Mexico Wildlife Federation

New York Progressive Action Network

North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE)

Northern Alaska Environmental Center

Ocean Conservation Research

Oil and Gas Action Network

Oil Change International

Olympic Peninsula Prairies

Partnership for Policy Integrity

Patagonia

Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Physicians for Social Responsibility Colorado

Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine

Physicians for Social Responsibility of PA

Protect Our Winters

Putnam Progressives

Rachel Carson Council

Resource Renewal Institute

Santa Fe Forest Coalition

SEE (Social Eco Education)

Sierra Club

South Asian Fund for Education Scholarship and Training Inc

Sovereign Iñupiat for a Living Arctic (SILA)

Sustainable Action Consulting PBC

Sustainable Ocean Alliance

TAO

The Enviro Show

The Ocean Project

The Unpopular Black

The Wilderness Society

Tongass Women for Forests

Tongass Women for Forests, S.E. Alaska

Topsham Veterinary Wellness Center

Trustees for Alaska

Turtle Island Restoration Network

Union for Reform Judaism

Unite North Metro Denver

Venetie Village Council

Venice Resistance

WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Western Watersheds Project

Wilderness Watch

Wildlife for All

World Wildlife Fund

