

April 25, 2024

Dear Representatives:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, the undersigned organizations write in strong opposition to H.R. 6285, the Alaska's Right to Produce Act of 2023, and **urge you to VOTE NO** on passage. This extreme legislation would reverse several critical actions undertaken by the Biden-Harris Administration to protect the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (the Refuge), 13 million acres of the Western Arctic and 125 million acres of the Arctic Ocean from indiscriminate oil drilling. The bill prioritizes resource extraction above all other uses of our public lands which are also sacred lands and cultural resources for Indigenous communities.

H.R. 6285 reinstates the 2020 Record of Decision for the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain Leasing Program, requiring the administration to reissue the seven canceled leases which were found by the Department of the Interior to be unlawfully issued. The bill also waives all environmental safeguards and precludes all executive and judicial authority and oversight — mandating by legislative fiat the approval of all authorizations and permits required to proceed with drilling in the Refuge.

H.R. 6285 would also withdraw the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed NPR-A Rule — a conservation effort that, when finalized, will help protect surface resources and the 13 million acres of designated "Special Areas" meant to be managed for conservation in the Western Arctic. Without additional protections, this pristine landscape will continue to industrialize rapidly, contributing to species loss, land degradation, and climate change. Worse, H.R. 6285 would prohibit the BLM from issuing any substantially similar rule in the future — forcing the BLM, and all future administrations, to succumb to a broken status quo that seeks to prioritize fossil fuel extraction in the Western Arctic over all else. This proposed rule is a long overdue, common-sense reform and is consistent with the directives in the law governing the Reserve, *the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act*, which requires the Department of the Interior to protect "environmental, fish and wildlife, and historical or scenic values."

H.R. 6285 also seeks to eliminate 125 million acres of existing protections from oil and gas leasing in the Chukchi, Bering, and Beaufort Seas created by President Obama and restored by President Biden (EO 13990) using Presidential authority under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. The Chukchi and Beaufort Seas provide vital habitat for a wide array of marine mammals, birds and fish, including the Pacific Walrus, polar bear, bowhead whale, ice seals and Steller's eider. Both presidents provided these protections because of the catastrophic impacts an oil spill would have on fish, wildlife and subsistence in a frozen ocean environment where we have neither the infrastructure, technology, nor experience to contain and clean up such a spill.

H.R. 6285 would also have effects beyond oil and gas by revoking President Obama's executive order creating the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area. That order, signed at the request of more than 70 Tribes, creates protections and processes for including Tribal voices in

management for more than 100,000 square miles of ocean in northwestern Alaska. This highly productive ecosystem area supports one of the largest seasonal marine mammal migrations in the world, including thousands of bowhead and beluga whales, hundreds of thousands of walrus and ice seals, and millions of migratory birds.

For all of these reasons, we urge you to oppose H.R. 6285 and any amendments that erode protections for the Arctic.

Sincerely,

350 Bay Area Action  
Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action  
Accountable.US  
Alaska Wilderness League Action  
Apex Protection Project  
Arctic Audubon Society  
Audubon Alaska  
Azul  
Braided River  
Businesses for a Livable Climate  
California Environmental Voters  
Californians for Western Wilderness  
Call to Action Colorado  
Catholic Network US  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for the Blue Economy  
Clean Water Action  
Climate Crisis Policy  
Climate Hawks Vote  
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks  
Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate  
Community for Sustainable Energy  
Conservation Colorado  
Conservation Lands Foundation  
Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship  
CPAWS YUKON  
Creation Justice Ministries  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Earthjustice  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Environment America  
Environmental Action  
Environmental Protection Information Center- EPIC  
Franciscan Action Network

Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges  
Friends of the Earth  
Friends of Wisconsin Wolf and Wildlife  
Gen-Z for Change  
Great Lakes Wildlife Alliance  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance  
GreenLatinos  
Green House Connection Center  
Gwich'in Steering Committee  
Healthy Ocean Coalition  
Indivisible Ambassadors  
Inland Ocean Coalition  
Interfaith Power & Light  
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute  
Interstate 70 Citizens Advisory Group  
KAO Consulting  
Klamath Forest Alliance  
Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety, & Environment  
Latino Outdoors  
League of Conservation Voters  
Littleton Business Alliance  
Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association  
Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries  
Mind's Eye Productions  
Montbello Neighborhood Improvement Association  
Mystic Aquarium  
National Ocean Protection Coalition  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Refuge Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Nature For All  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Next 100 Coalition  
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness  
Northern Alaska Environmental Center  
North Range Concerned Citizens  
Ocean Conservancy  
Ocean Conservation Research  
Ocean Defense Initiative  
Oceana  
Oceanic Preservation Society  
Oil Change International  
Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Our Sacred Earth  
Partnership for the National Trails System  
Patagonia  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
RapidShift Network  
Save the Environmental Protection Agency  
Sierra Club  
Small Business Alliance  
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council  
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
Southwest Organization for Sustainability  
Sovereign Inupiat for a Living Arctic (SILA)  
Spirit of the Sun  
Student Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs)  
Surfrider Foundation  
Sustainable Ocean Alliance  
System Change Not Climate Change  
Taproot Earth  
Texas Campaign for the Environment  
The Earth Bill Network  
The Episcopal Church  
The Joy Trip Project  
The Wilderness Society  
Trustees for Alaska  
Unite North Metro Denver  
Wall of Women  
Western Slope Businesses for a Livable Climate  
Wilderness Watch  
Womxn from the Mountain  
Working for Racial Equity  
World Wildlife Fund  
Zero Hour