

Alaska Wilderness League · Center for Biological Diversity · Climate Hawks Vote · Defenders of Wildlife · Earthjustice · Earthworks · Environment America · Eyak Preservation Council · Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition · Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges · Friends of the Earth · Greenpeace USA · Gwich'in Steering Committee · Hip Hop Caucus · National Audubon Society · National Wildlife Refuge Association · Natural Resources Defense Council · Native Movement · Nature Canada · Northern Alaska Environmental Center · Pacific Environment · Sierra Club · The Wilderness Society · Vet Voice Foundation · Wilderness Watch

June 19th, 2018

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of the above-signed organizations, we are writing to urge you to become a cosponsor of Representative Jared Huffman's (D-CA) Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act, H.R. 5911. Protecting the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas development has long been one of the highest profile conservation issues in the United States. This important legislation would repeal a provision in the controversial December tax legislation mandating an oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Arctic Refuge drilling remains deeply unpopular – more than two-thirds of Americans oppose it. This bill repeals that provision and sides with the majority of the America public who do not want, have not asked for, and will not accept sacrificing the wildest place in America for short-sighted, destructive fossil fuel production.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of the most iconic and pristine landscapes in America. 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" because of its importance to the caribou.

Protecting wild places such as the Coastal Plain of 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 look forward to working with you to restore protection for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge, and to defeat any threats to this iconic place. Your cosponsorship of the Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act will be an important first step.

Signed,

Alaska Wilderness League
Center for Biological Diversity
Climate Hawks Vote

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