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ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE

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Sen. Murkowski Plays Politics While Alaska Melts

Alaska Sen. demands Arctic Refuge drilling for climate change bill support

Statement from Cindy Shogan, Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League:

“Once again, Sen. Murkowski (R-AK) has decided that playing politics is more important than working toward real solutions for climate change, a problem that is hitting her state harder than anywhere else in the nation. Put simply, she is playing politics while Alaska melts.

America’s Arctic is ground zero for climate change, a fact Sen. Murkowski has acknowledged many times in the past. Sen. Murkowski is pandering to the oil industry by calling for drilling in the Arctic Refuge.

Senator Murkowski knows full well that majorities in the House and Senate oppose Arctic Refuge drilling as does the President. It was defeated time and time again during the eight years of the Bush presidency and even during the years when Republicans controlled the House, Senate and White House. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of this irreplaceable wilderness, Sen. Murkowski knows as well as anyone that drilling in the Arctic Refuge is not only a dead issue, but would also perpetuate our dependence on fossil fuels.

If Sen. Murkowski is really interested in helping the people of Alaska, she should resume her role as a key player in the climate change debate – and ensure that a problem that is having drastic impacts in Alaska is being addressed. Until then, the ground will continue to melt beneath Alaska’s feet, wildlife will continue to perish, the people of America’s Arctic will continue to lose their way of life, and the oil industry will continue to do what it does best, grow rich at our universal expense.”

About Alaska Wilderness League:

Alaska Wilderness League is the only organization dedicated solely to the preservation of Alaska's wilderness in the nation's capital. Go to www.alaskawild.org to find out more.

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