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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Statement from Cindy Shogan, Executive Director,
Alaska Wilderness League, on the Introduction of Representative Markey's
Bill to Protect the Arctic Refuge**

“Today, Representative Edward J. Markey (D-Mass) re-introduced his Arctic Wilderness Act to designate the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain a wilderness area – clearly a top priority as this is his first official action as Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee.

In his statement Representative Markey, mentioned his concerns about the oil industry's capacity to respond to a spill, following the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster this summer. We cannot agree more that oil development is a dirty, dangerous, and risky business. Some places are just too special to drill. The Arctic Refuge and especially its Coastal Plain – the Refuge's “biological heart” – is home to some of America's most iconic species including polar bears, grizzly bears, wolves, wolverines, muskoxen, and more than 130 species of migratory birds.

We applaud Representative Markey's continued leadership in protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to ensure that this important piece of our natural heritage is protected now and for future generations of Americans.”

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