



*Your Land.  
Your Voice.*

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## **FIRST CLIMATE CRISIS ACTION DAY DRAWS THOUSANDS**

### ***Citizens from Alaska to Maine Urge Congress to Act Now Against Global Warming***

Washington, DC, March 20, 2007 – Three to five thousand citizen activists from 47 states and 45 diverse organizations joined members of Congress today on the West Front Lawn of the U.S. Capitol for the first Climate Crisis Action Day in U.S. history. The goal of the event was to raise public awareness for the impacts of global warming, and to urge Congress to take the necessary steps to curb global warming emissions and permanently protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The event was the largest “carbon-neutral”<sup>1</sup> global warming gathering on record and included non-traditional supporters such as private companies and 94.7FM The Globe.

“Citizens took time off from work, school and their busy lives to put the heat on lawmakers over the growing threats of global warming,” said Alaska Wilderness League’s Executive Director, Cindy Shogan. “Warmer weather already threatens polar bears in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Congress must adopt steep global warming pollution reductions and protect the Arctic before America’s polar bears disappear forever.”

1500 citizen activists within a 10-hour radius of Washington, DC got up before the break of dawn to attend “Climate Crisis Action Day.” These citizen activists were joined by thousands more citizen activists from the DC metro area, visitors from across the country in town for vacation and activists who flew to DC to lobby Congress for global warming legislation and permanent protection of the Arctic Refuge.

Speakers mirrored the diversity of the citizen activists who attended the event, including Alaska Natives, and speakers from the youth, science, faith, and academic communities. Members of Congress who participated in the event included Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), and John Kerry (D-MA) and Representatives Edward Markey (D-MA), Jim Ramstad (R-MN), Henry Waxman (D-CA), and Mike Honda (D-CA).

The global warming pollutant reduction bills are Henry Waxman’s (D-CA) Safe Climate Act in the House, and Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Barbara Boxer’s (D-CA) Global

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<sup>1</sup> All emissions from the event were offset through the purchase of renewable energy credits.

Warming Pollution Reduction Act in the Senate. Both bills aim to reduce domestic emissions by 80%, to below 1990 levels, by mid-century.

“The day’s goal was to give citizens the opportunity to come together and urge their members of Congress to reduce global warming emissions and support the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act, introduced by Representatives Ed Markey (D-MA) and Jim Ramstad (R-MN), to permanently protect the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from dirty energy threats,” said Alaska Wilderness League’s Legislative Director, Kristen Miller. “The diversity of the crowd and national attention on these issues show that the American public is aware and waiting

**About Alaska Wilderness League – Your Land. Your Voice.**

Alaska Wilderness League’s mission is to lead the effort to preserve Alaska’s wilderness by engaging citizens, sharing resources, collaborating with other organizations, educating the public, and providing a courageous, constant and victorious voice for Alaska in the nation’s capital. It is the only organization dedicated solely to the preservation of Alaska’s wilderness in the nation’s capital.



[www.AlaskaWild.org](http://www.AlaskaWild.org)

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