

*** Alaska Wilderness League * Audubon Minnesota * Environment Minnesota *
* 1Sky Minnesota * Sierra Club North Star Chapter ***

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Furry Friends Make a Visit to Rep Bachmann To Remind Her - “Drilling Won’t Mean a Drop at the Pump!”

Public and Community Groups Gather at Congresswoman Bachmann’s Office to Promote Real Energy Solutions

St Paul, MN – Today, a life-sized polar bear and caribou from Alaska made a special visit to Representative Michele Bachmann (R-MN) since she was unable to make it to their home, the Coastal Plain, on her “fact finding” fly-over of the Arctic Refuge. Joining furry friends were 6th District residents and others, all urging Congresswoman Bachmann to start the good work of finding real solutions to climate change and our country’s energy crisis.

In light of Rep. Bachmann’s failed attempt to visit the Refuge this summer (she was only able to fly over rather than land), the “furry friends” and other citizens dropped by to visit Rep. Bachmann in her district to remind the Congresswoman that **“Drilling Won’t Mean a Drop at the Pump”** for 6th District residents or any other American driver.

“Drilling won’t mean a drop at the pump,” said Lois Norrgard, Minnesota Field Organizer for Alaska Wilderness League. “We need solutions that will break our addiction, not more of the same dead-end ideas and dirty fuels of a bygone era – by supporting drilling, Rep. Bachmann is not focusing on what really matters.”

The event allowed citizens to express concern over Rep Bachmann’s recent comments supporting drilling in the Arctic Refuge and to ask hard questions such as “how much money would drilling really save 6th District residents at the pump?” and “how is more drilling in sensitive areas going to help us get off of oil?”

“Despite Rep. Bachmann’s claims, offshore drilling will not lower gas prices,” said Spencer Roth of Environment Minnesota. “If we start drilling now, we won’t see gas beginning to flow until the year 2017. The Bush administration’s own Energy Information Administration says that drilling off our coasts would have ‘no significant’ impact on gasoline prices. We need leaders who are committed to solving our energy crisis using real solutions not oil industry talking points.”

Many citizens of the 6th District are concerned that Rep. Bachmann is not living up to her promise of coming up with solutions and representing their priorities of wilderness conservation and a secure energy future based on innovation and alternative fuels.

“Fossil fuels are not the answer and serve only to increase the impacts of climate change to this country and the planet,” said Kate Ellis, 1Sky Minnesota Organizer. “We need representatives who will listen and be brave enough to lead us away from our addiction to dirty fuels and onto a path toward clean, alternative fuels which will create jobs and put the U.S. back on the map of energy innovation!”

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge represents the very last of this country’s untouched wilderness, is vital birthing grounds for the Gwich’in’s Porcupine Caribou, key habitat for grizzlies, polar and black bears, and essential summer grounds for birds from around the world. It has been often been called the “Serengeti of

North America” and is now under constant threat of development by Big Oil’s short-sighted henchman in Congress.

To find out more about Big Oil’s foothold in America by visiting www.ShameonBigOil.org.

Photos from the event will be posted soon at www.alaskawild.org.

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. Go to www.alaskawild.org to learn more.



www.AlaskaWild.org

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