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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Oil Industry Tempts Americans with Promise of Phantom Jobs**

Statement from Lydia Weiss, Arctic Refuge Program Director, Alaska Wilderness League:

"Rep. Doc Hastings (R-WA) removed any shadow of doubt that the Republican majority in the House of Representatives has been bought and sold by Big Oil today when he parroted suspect job numbers and projected revenues from an industry-study on oil and gas drilling. The study, released yesterday by the American Petroleum Institute, comes to unfounded conclusions about drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Conducted by research firm Wood MacKenzie, the study includes a careful disclaimer in its footnotes: 'We do not guarantee [the] fairness, completeness or accuracy' of the opinions in this report. In other words, Wood MacKenzie can't stand by its own conclusions - that drilling in the Arctic Refuge, or elsewhere, will strengthen our national economy over the long-term. In fact, the clean energy sector does more to create good-paying, sustainable jobs - right now, there are more clean energy jobs in the U.S. than fossil-fuel jobs, according to a recent report from the Brookings Institute.

It's not surprising that Big Oil came out with a study full of suspect jobs numbers - just in time to take advantage of our collective vulnerability to this issue created by soaring unemployment. It makes perfect sense from a public relations standpoint: Hit us while we are down and tell us that the only way up is to destroy our precious natural heritage. Because when it comes to drilling our special places like the Arctic Refuge, the only gain would be to Big Oil's deep pockets.

API represents the interests of giant multinational corporations like Royal Dutch Shell and Exxon Mobil that have no interest in putting America back to work - unless you count the nearly 700 lobbyists employed by Big Oil on Capitol Hill.

Millions of Americans have stood up year after year for the Arctic Refuge - home to many of our most beloved wildlife species and the birthplace for polar bears, caribou and millions of birds that migrate through all 50 states. Big Oil's latest round of fancy P.R. isn't going to change that. Our last great wilderness place belongs to future generations of Americans - not Big Oil."

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