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# Time to take oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge off the table

WASHINGTON – Today marks a year since President Obama made a recommendation to Congress for Wilderness for the Arctic Refuge and its sensitive Coastal Plain.

**Statement by Cindy Shogan, Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League:**

"Today is one year after President Obama made an historic statement for a Wilderness recommendation for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Arctic Refuge is wild, unspoiled and a natural treasure, like Yosemite and the Grand Canyon.

In 2015, Senators Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Edward Markey (D-MA) and Representatives Jared Huffman (D-CA) and Michael Fitzpatrick (R-PA) acted on the President's recommendation and introduced legislation to protect biological heart of the Refuge – its Coastal Plain. We want to thank these Arctic champions for their leadership to protect the Arctic Refuge for future generations.

Some places are too special to drill – the Arctic Refuge is one of those places. The Refuge has been in the crosshairs for a long time – but after decades of attacks to this fragile area and ever increasing threats from climate change to the way of life of the people that live off the lands – now is the time to end this debate once and for all. Congress: it's time to finish the job."