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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 6, 2017

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Big Oil allies drop Arctic Refuge drilling bills

WASHINGTON, DC – Last night, Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Dan Sullivan (R-AK) introduced S. 49, a bill that would allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge’s biologically sensitive Coastal Plain. Earlier this week, Rep. Don Young (R-AK) introduced a bill that would drill in the biological heart of Refuge – the Coastal Plain – H.R. 49. The Arctic Refuge is one of our nation’s most majestic places, home to the Porcupine Caribou Herd, musk oxen, wolves, imperiled polar bears, and nearly 200 species of migratory birds that migrate to six continents and all 50 states.

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

“We will fight any and all attempts to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Arctic Refuge is owned by all Americans and is one of our nation’s most treasured places. For nearly 30 years, Americans have fought to keep the Arctic Refuge and its sensitive Coastal Plain protected. Today there is a bigger, stronger, and more diverse coalition than ever that stands ready to fight to ensure this iconic landscape is protected for generations to come.

In an area where the effects of climate change are more dramatic than anywhere else in our nation, it would be irresponsible to drill there.”

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