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Rep. Jared Huffman moves to protect the Arctic

WASHINGTON, DC –Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA) introduced legislation today called the Stop Arctic Ocean Drilling Act to strengthen protections for the Arctic Ocean and show opposition to any future risky drilling in our oceans. Similar legislation was introduced in the 114th Congress.

Statement by Kristen Miller, interim Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League:

“Today, ocean champions Rep. Jared Huffman, along with 36 additional co-sponsors rallied around legislation to protect Arctic for future generations. The Arctic is fragile and remote with little to no infrastructure – the nearest Coast Guard is 1,000-miles away. Simply, it would be irresponsible to drill there.

As President Trump and his administration roll out the most aggressive oil and gas drilling program in years, the Arctic is melting like never before. Arctic sea ice is at the lowest it has been in nearly four decades of satellite measurements. Yet, this has not stopped Congress from introducing legislation that puts our oceans at risk, nor has it stopped the Trump administration from considering new drilling in the Arctic.

Oil drilling is inherently risky. As we have seen time and time again, it is not a question of whether we will spill, but when. The *Deepwater Horizon* and *Exxon Valdez* spills prove that there is no such thing as an effective clean up; once oil has been spilled, the battle has been lost. The government—by its own estimate—has said that there is up to a 75 percent risk of a major spill if drilling were to move forward in the Chukchi Sea in Alaska.”

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