



*Your Land.
Your Voice.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 7, 2017

Contact: Gwen Dobbs

Tel: 202-544-5205 or Email: gwen@alaskawild.org

Assistant Secretary Interior Nominee Balash wrong choice for our public lands

WASHINGTON, DC – Today at 10:30 a.m., Senate Energy and Natural Resources will hold a nomination hearing for Joe Balash for Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management.

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

As Commissioner of the state of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Joe Balash asserted state ownership over leases at the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's boundary and pushed for seismic studies in the Arctic Refuge. He also supported legislation that would expedite drilling in the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska and in Bristol Bay by suing the EPA for taking action to protect clean water and one of the world's most productive fisheries in the world.

There's no doubt that, if confirmed, he will be advocating alongside a growing list of this administration's political appointees who seem dead set on drilling in the Arctic Refuge – despite the law and the will of the American people. Balash is the wrong choice to act in the public interest and to protect iconic national treasures like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

###



www.AlaskaWild.org

122 C St NW, Ste 240, Washington, DC 20001 * Tel: 202-544-5205 * Fax: 202-544-5197