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Contact: Gwen Dobbs

Tel: 202-266-0418 or Email: gwen@alaskawild.org

Provisions in tax bill ruled to be in violation of the Byrd Rule

WASHINGTON – Today, provisions in the Senate tax bill aimed at opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas development were ruled to be in violation of the Byrd Rule by the Senate parliamentarian. New language is expected to be introduced addressing rule violations and scoring issues.

Statement by Kristen Miller, Conservation Director, Alaska Wilderness League:

"This is what happens when you try to take legislative shortcuts with complicated policies. The effort to attach an Arctic Refuge drilling rider to this bill has never been about our nation's budget or tax reform – instead, it is about skirting the law to allow dangerous and damaging drilling in a pristine wildlife Refuge without consideration of its full impacts. The only way the impact of Arctic Refuge drilling can be understood by Congress and the American public, and an informed decision made, is through the full debate allowed in normal Senate proceedings. Arctic Refuge drilling should never have been a part of reconciliation, and indeed should never occur."

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www.AlaskaWild.org

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