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Senate continues to play politics with the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

WASHINGTON – Today, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing on the oil and gas potential of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Arctic Refuge is one of our wildest and pristine refuges and among our most iconic natural treasures.

Statement by Adam Kolton, Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League:

“Today’s stacked witness list of oil drilling supporters can’t change the fundamental facts in this debate. This is about drilling in the wildest place left in America to increase oil exports to China and other countries. This is about robbing our children’s natural inheritance for the sake of greasing a \$1.5 trillion unpaid tax scheme that will benefit the most affluent. And it’s about turning our back on the realities of climate change to justify our increasing dependence on oil decades from now.

The American people aren’t buying today’s snake oil arguments. They know the promise of new and improved drilling is nothing more than a ruse masquerading as some kind of technological breakthrough. There is no such thing as safe drilling in America’s Serengeti.

There is no balance at today’s hearing and there is no balance in this alarming proposal to mandate drilling in the only portion of America’s Arctic coastline set aside as a wildlife refuge.”

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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.



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