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Congress Conferencing controversial bill this afternoon

Washington, DC – Conferees on the controversial tax bill are meeting today at 2 p.m. to conference the House and Senate versions of the bill. The bill includes a poison pill rider to drill in the biological heart of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

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

“House and Senate conferees have a responsibility to make the right decisions for our country as they take up the controversial tax bill today. No tax scheme is worth betraying our commitment to protect this iconic landscape for future generations, let alone one the piles massive debt on our children and grandchildren.

Our kids are no doubt dreaming of what will gifts will be under the tree this holiday, as lawmakers plunder our nation’s last wild natural gifts, like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Wilderness areas are the gifts that keep giving, and the legacy of what we will be leaving our children.

The Arctic Refuge sustains life – the tax bill could destroy it and export the oil to China. It is the sacred lands of the Gwich’in people, and vital habitat for caribou, denning polar bears, and millions of migratory birds.

For nearly half a century, the Arctic Refuge has been protected from drilling because the majority of Americans believe this iconic landscape is not worth sacrificing for a short-term speculative fix of oil that would be gone in a generation. We must draw a line in the tundra and save our last great wilderness.”

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