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Contact: Gwen Dobbs

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

**Republican luminaries to Congress:
Exclude highly controversial Arctic Refuge drilling from tax code**

WASHINGTON – Seven Republican luminaries have signed a letter to Congress to urge the exclusion of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from the tax code and to instead take up and advance truly bipartisan energy legislation in the months ahead.

Excerpts from the letter:

“Republican President Theodore Roosevelt established our National Wildlife Refuge System and it was another Republican, President Dwight Eisenhower, who originally set aside the Northeast corner of Alaska in 1960. In the more than a half-century since, bipartisan efforts have strengthened and maintained protections for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.”

“Decisions regarding oil and gas exploration should be made in the context of a bi-partisan, broadly supported national energy policy that takes account of the need to reliably fuel economic prosperity while addressing environmental and national security challenges.”

“Revenue assumptions from leasing, bonus bid and royalty revenues are highly speculative. To meet the budget assumption of \$1 billion, oil companies would need to bid more than 40 times more than what average onshore North Slope lease sales have generated for almost two decades.”

“...advancing drilling in this manner will complicate passage of important and vitally needed tax reform...we urge you to exclude this highly controversial provision from efforts to overhaul our nation’s tax code and to instead take up and advance truly bipartisan energy legislation in the months ahead.”

[Senate letter](#)

[House letter](#)

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www.AlaskaWild.org

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