



*Your Land.
Your Voice.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2017

Contact: Gwen Dobbs

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

Senate votes to destroy Arctic Refuge

WASHINGTON – Tonight the U.S. Senate voted on final passage of the tax reform bill, which included a controversial rider to drill in the biological heart of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The bill passed 51 to 49.

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

“Just days before the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge’s 57th birthday, the Senate passed a bill that will destroy it.

We should be celebrating the life that the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge sustains. Instead, the Senate voted to destroy the sacred lands to the Gwich’in people, and vital habitat for caribou, denning polar bears, and millions of migratory birds.

But, it’s not over – Republican opposition is growing. The final tax bill should not include Arctic Refuge drilling. Today a [group of courageous House Republican leaders](#) released a letter urging that the Arctic drilling scheme be removed from the bill. In addition, seven prominent Republicans, including two former Republican EPA Administrators and Teddy Roosevelt IV similarly called upon Congress to ensure that Arctic Refuge drilling be excluded from the final tax bill.

The Byrd rule fire drill and Congress stealing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to pay for more oil drilling in our wildest Refuge, just proves that the Arctic Refuge has no place in the tax bill.

No tax scheme is worth betraying our commitment to protect this iconic landscape for future generations, let alone one that piles massive debt on our children and grandchildren. Our nation’s largest and wildest refuge should not be sold off to the highest Big Oil bidders to pay for an infinitesimal fraction of tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires.

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.”

Republican luminaries’ letter: [Senate letter](#) [House letter](#)

###



www.AlaskaWild.org

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