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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2018

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### **Trump confirms Arctic Refuge decision was just politics**

Washington – Earlier today, at a GOP retreat in West Virginia, [President trump told Republican members of Congress](#) that he "really didn't care" about opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling prior to the tax bill, and that "when I heard people wanted it for 40 years, I said, 'Make sure you don't lose ANWR.'"

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

"It's clear from President Trump's remarks that jamming Arctic Refuge drilling in the tax bill was always about politics and not a thoughtful energy policy. President Trump should care that he signed a bill reversing not a Democratic policy, but protections that date back to Republican presidents Dwight Eisenhower and Teddy Roosevelt. This is a retreat from the GOP great conservation legacy.

Donald Trump might not care but millions of Americans do, and always have. They care about protecting our last great wilderness. They care about the subsistence culture of the Gwich'in people whose way of life is now threatened. And they care about the polar bears, caribou and millions of migratory birds in this cherished landscape. They also care about the future of our climate, and do not want to see us squeeze every drop of oil out of our national parks and refuges just to increase our exports to places like China.

The drilling scheme only passed because of a legislative trick. It would never have survived a full, fair and open debate. It's vital that Congress listen to the majority of the American people and repeal the Refuge rider and restore protections to America's wildest national wildlife refuge."

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