

April 3, 2018

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Heidi Wanner  
Bureau of Land Management  
Alaska State Office  
Attn: FOIA Office  
222 W 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue #13  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513  
hwanner@blm.gov

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request**

Dear Ms. Wanner:

Alaska Wilderness League submits the following request for records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552 and its implementing regulations seeking the following records generated, received, obtained, or considered by the Alaska Regional Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) since November 15, 2017:

Any documents related to the development of an oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge pursuant to Title II of Public Law 115-97, including policies, plans, technical or scientific documents, regulations or regulatory documents, National Environmental Policy Act documents, assessments, and any documents related to the subject matter of the law.

Any documents related to the development of lands owned by the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The term “documents” should be given the broadest possible interpretation and includes, but is not limited to, correspondence, memos, notes of meetings and telephone calls, electronic communications (email, text message, electronic chats), meeting notes, reports, and facsimiles.

We would prefer to receive the records in an electronic format, if possible. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)(B). If the anticipated number of documents is voluminous, please let us know and we may be able to limit the scope of the request.

## **Fee Waiver Request**

We also request a waiver of any fees associated with this request. Under FOIA, fee waivers are decided on a case-by-case basis and “[d]ocuments shall be furnished without any charge . . . if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Pursuant to the Department of Interior’s FOIA regulations, fee waivers are decided on a case-by-case basis and permitted when the disclosure “is in the public interest because its release is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government,” and the information “is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” 43 C.F.R. § 2.45(a)(1)–(2).

The factors used to determine whether the information is likely to contribute to public understanding of the operations or activities are the following: (1) whether the records concern government operations or activities; (2) how disclosure is likely to contribute to public understanding of the government operations and activities; (3) how disclosure will contribute significantly to the understanding of a reasonably broad public audience; and (4) how disclosure will enhance public understanding of the subject to a significant extent. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(1)–(4). As discussed below, disclosure of the requested BLM records is in the public interest and this fee waiver request meets all of these criteria. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

### **1. The records concern government operations or activities.**

The FOIA request seeks information related to BLM’s implementation of Title II of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Pub L. 115-97, tax reform legislation that allows oil and gas leasing on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The legislation identified the BLM as the agency responsible for “establish[ing] and administer[ing] a competitive oil and gas program for the leasing, development, production, and transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain.”

The requested records relate directly to the operations and activities of BLM in determining how the agency interprets its duties under the law and how it will implement the law to establish an oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain and carry out its obligations under the new law. Thus, the request concerns “operations and activities of the government” and this factor is satisfied.

### **2. Disclosure is likely to contribute to public understanding of the government’s operations and activities.**

The contents of the record will provide meaningful information to the public regarding BLM’s implementation of an oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(2)(i). Officials have recently stated that they will move forward very soon and very quickly to establish an oil and gas program. The requested documents would help the public to understand how BLM intends to move forward in this regard.

The contents of the record and the government operations are logically connected. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(2)(ii). The requested documents will provide the public with insight into the government's, and specifically BLM's, activities, processes, and decision making in the Coastal Plain. The requested records relate directly to BLM oversight and management of public resources in the Arctic Refuge. Access to these records will allow the public to better understand whether and how BLM is complying with applicable laws and regulations. These documents are crucial to the public's ability to understand BLM's anticipated activities and operations in the Coastal Plain.

Disclosure will also contribute to the understanding of a reasonably broad audience and not just to Alaska Wilderness League's understanding. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(2)(iii). Alaska Wilderness League was founded as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation to further the protection of amazing public lands and waters in Alaska. Alaska Wilderness League's mission is to lead the effort to preserve Alaska's wild lands and waters by engaging citizens and decision makers with a courageous, constant, victorious voice for Alaska. The requested documents will be shared with the public and with other organizations. Alaska Wilderness League has the qualifications and expertise to evaluate and disclose the information in a manner that will inform a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(2)(iv). Alaska Wilderness League has been engaged on issues related to the Refuge for decades. Alaska Wilderness League anticipates weighing in on and educating the public on future decisions regarding the Refuge. We can and will disseminate the requested information to a broad audience that includes local and national conservation groups, rural Native villages, community and citizen groups, statewide coalitions, other interested non-governmental organizations, and individual Alaskans. The information will be shared through various means, including newsletters, reports, articles, electronic action alerts, telephone calls, in-person meetings, and other formal and informal print, digital, and oral communications. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(2)(v). Therefore, disclosure will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of government operations and this factor is satisfied.

### **3. Disclosure will contribute significantly to the public's understanding.**

The information being requested is new. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(3)(i). Since the passage of the law, very little information has been released about how BLM is implementing the law. The information would help the public to understand BLM's response. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(3)(ii). Disclosure of the information will increase the level of public understanding of BLM's operations. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(3)(iii). The public currently has very little information about BLM's plans to implement the tax bill to initiate an oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain. Disclosure of the information will enable Alaska Wilderness League to evaluate the agency's activities regarding the Coastal Plain, and educate the public about those operations. The information is not already publicly available. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(3)(iv). The government has not published the requested information and it is not routinely available to the public. As discussed above, Alaska Wilderness League's mission is to lead the effort to preserve Alaska's wild

lands and waters by engaging citizens and decision makers with a courageous, constant, victorious voice for Alaska, and we will disseminate the information to a broad and diverse audience. Therefore, disclosure will contribute significantly to the understanding of a reasonably broad public audience, and this factor is satisfied.

**4. Disclosure will enhance public understanding of the subject to a significant extent.**

Disclosure will significantly contribute to public understanding of BLM's planning process for the Arctic Refuge. The public is aware that Congress passed the tax legislation, but has very little information regarding BLM's response to the law. As described above, Alaska Wilderness League will disseminate the requested information to the public through a variety of communication methods. Dissemination of the requested information will significantly increase public understanding about BLM's Refuge activities and operations. Therefore, disclosure will significantly contribute to public understanding of the subject and this factor is satisfied.

**5. Alaska Wilderness League has no commercial interest in the disclosure of the information.**

Disclosure of the requested records is not in Alaska Wilderness League's commercial interest. 43 C.F.R. § 2.45(a)(2), 2.48(b). Alaska Wilderness League has no primary or secondary commercial interest in the dissemination of the requested information. Alaska Wilderness League was founded as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation to further the protection of amazing public lands and waters in Alaska. As described above, the requested information will be disseminated to educate the public and to further the public interest in environmental subjects, and will not be used for commercial purposes. Thus, Alaska Wilderness League has no commercial interest that would be furthered by disclosure and this factor is satisfied.

Based on the foregoing discussion, this fee waiver request meets the FOIA regulation requirements and a fee waiver should be granted. However, if the BLM determines that the fee waiver should not be granted, we request that you contact us prior to incurring any fees to produce the FOIA request.

We also request that BLM respond to this request within twenty (20) working days, as required by law. If the agency chooses to withhold any documents from disclosure pursuant to FOIA exemptions, we request that it: (i) identify each such document with particularity (including title, subject, date, author, recipient, and parties copied); (ii) explain in full the basis on which non-disclosure is justified; and (iii) provide us with any portions of the documents which may be segregated and for which a specific exemption is not claimed.

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If you have any questions regarding the scope of this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-544-5205 or by e-mail at [kristen@alaskawild.org](mailto:kristen@alaskawild.org).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a stylized "Miller".

Kristen Miller  
Conservation Director  
Alaska Wilderness League

April 3, 2018

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Clarice Julka (MS-7328, MIB)  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C. St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
os\_foia@ios.doi.gov

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request**

Dear Ms. Julka:

Alaska Wilderness League submits the following request for records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552 and its implementing regulations seeking the following records generated, received, obtained, or considered by the U.S. Department of the Interior since November 15, 2017:

Any documents related to the development of an oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge pursuant to Title II of Public Law 115-97, including policies, plans, technical or scientific documents, regulations or regulatory documents, National Environmental Policy Act documents, assessments, and any documents related to the subject matter of the law.

Any documents related to the development of lands owned by the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The term “documents” should be given the broadest possible interpretation and includes, but is not limited to, correspondence, memos, notes of meetings and telephone calls, electronic communications (email, text message, electronic chats), meeting notes, reports, and facsimiles.

We would prefer to receive the records in an electronic format, if possible. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)(B). If the anticipated number of documents is voluminous, please let us know and we may be able to limit the scope of the request.

**Fee Waiver Request**

We also request a waiver of any fees associated with this request. Under FOIA, fee waivers are decided on a case-by-case basis and “[d]ocuments shall be furnished without any charge . . . if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities

of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Pursuant to Interior’s FOIA regulations, fee waivers are decided on a case-by-case basis and permitted when the disclosure “is in the public interest because its release is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government,” and the information “is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” 43 C.F.R. § 2.45(a)(1)–(2).

The factors used to determine whether the information is likely to contribute to public understanding of the operations or activities are the following: (1) whether the records concern government operations or activities; (2) how disclosure is likely to contribute to public understanding of the government operations and activities; (3) how disclosure will contribute significantly to the understanding of a reasonably broad public audience; and (4) how disclosure will enhance public understanding of the subject to a significant extent. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(1)–(4). As discussed below, disclosure of the requested records is in the public interest and this fee waiver request meets all of these criteria. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

### **1. The records concern government operations or activities.**

The FOIA request seeks information related to Interior’s implementation of Title II of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Pub L. 115-97, tax reform legislation that allows oil and gas leasing on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The legislation identified the Secretary of the Interior as the entity responsible for “establish[ing] and administer[ing] a competitive oil and gas program for the leasing, development, production, and transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain.”

The requested records relate directly to the operations and activities of Interior in determining how the agency interprets its duties under the law and how it will implement the law to establish an oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain and carry out its obligations under the new law. Thus, the request concerns “operations and activities of the government” and this factor is satisfied.

### **2. Disclosure is likely to contribute to public understanding of the government’s operations and activities.**

The contents of the record will provide meaningful information to the public regarding Interior’s management of the Refuge. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(2)(i). The public currently knows very little about how Interior plans to implement the terms of the tax legislation. Officials have recently stated that they will move forward very soon and very quickly to establish an oil and gas program. The requested documents would help the public to understand how Interior intends to move forward in this regard. The contents of the record and the government operations are logically connected. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(2)(ii). The requested documents will provide the public with insight into the government’s, and specifically Interior’s, activities, processes, and decision making in the Coastal Plain. The requested records relate directly to Interior’s oversight and management of public resources in the Arctic Refuge. Access to these records will allow

the public to better understand whether and how Interior is complying with applicable laws and regulations. These documents are crucial to the public's ability to understand Interior's anticipated activities and operations in the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain.

Alaska Wilderness League was founded as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation to further the protection of amazing public lands and waters in Alaska. Alaska Wilderness League's mission is to lead the effort to preserve Alaska's wild lands and waters by engaging citizens and decision makers with a courageous, constant, victorious voice for Alaska. The requested documents will be shared with the public and with other organizations. Alaska Wilderness League has the qualifications and expertise to evaluate and disclose the information in a manner that will inform a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(2)(iv). Alaska Wilderness League has been engaged on issues related to the Refuge for decades. Alaska Wilderness League anticipates weighing in on and educating the public on future decisions regarding the Refuge. Alaska Wilderness League can and will disseminate the requested information to a broad audience that includes local and national conservation groups, rural Native villages, community and citizen groups, statewide coalitions, other interested non-governmental organizations, and individual Alaskans. The information will be shared through various means, including newsletters, reports, articles, electronic action alerts, telephone calls, in-person meetings, and other formal and informal print, digital, and oral communications. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(2)(v). Therefore, disclosure will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of government operations and this factor is satisfied.

### **3. Disclosure will contribute significantly to the public's understanding.**

The information being requested is new. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(3)(i). Since the passage of the law, Interior has released very little information publicly regarding how Interior plans to implement the provisions of the law. The information would help the public to understand Interior's response to the law. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(3)(ii). Disclosure of the information will increase the level of public understanding of Interior's operations. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(3)(iii). The public currently has very little information about Interior's plans to implement the tax bill to initiate an oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain. Disclosure of the information will enable Alaska Wilderness League to evaluate the agency's activities regarding the Coastal Plain, and educate the public about those operations. The information is not already publicly available. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(3)(iv). The government has not published the requested information and it is not routinely available to the public. As discussed above, Alaska Wilderness League's mission is to lead the effort to preserve Alaska's wild lands and waters by engaging citizens and decision makers with a courageous, constant, victorious voice for Alaska, and we will disseminate the information to a broad and diverse audience. Therefore, disclosure will contribute significantly to the understanding of a reasonably broad public audience, and this factor is satisfied.

**4. Disclosure will enhance public understanding of the subject to a significant extent.**

Disclosure will significantly contribute to the public's understanding of Interior's planning processes regarding an oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge. The public is aware that Congress passed the tax legislation, but has very little information regarding Interior's response to the law. As described above, Alaska Wilderness League will disseminate the requested information to the public through a variety of communication methods. Dissemination of the requested information will significantly increase public understanding about Interior's Refuge activities and operations. Therefore, disclosure will significantly contribute to public understanding of the subject and this factor is satisfied.

**5. Alaska Wilderness League has no commercial interest in the disclosure of the information.**

Disclosure of the requested records is not in Alaska Wilderness League's commercial interest. 43 C.F.R. § 2.45(a)(2), 2.48(b). Alaska Wilderness League has no primary or secondary commercial interest in the dissemination of the requested information. Alaska Wilderness League was founded as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation to further the protection of amazing public lands and waters in Alaska. As described above, the requested information will be disseminated to educate the public and to further the public interest in environmental subjects, and will not be used for commercial purposes. Thus, Alaska Wilderness League has no commercial interest that would be furthered by disclosure and this factor is satisfied.

Based on the foregoing discussion, this fee waiver request meets the FOIA regulations' requirements and a fee waiver should be granted. However, if Interior determines that the fee waiver should not be granted, we request that you contact us prior to incurring any fees to produce the FOIA request.

We also request that Interior respond to this request within twenty (20) working days, as required by law. If the agency chooses to withhold any documents from disclosure pursuant to FOIA exemptions, we request that it: (i) identify each such document with particularity (including title, subject, date, author, recipient, and parties copied); (ii) explain in full the basis on which non-disclosure is justified; and (iii) provide us with any portions of the documents which may be segregated and for which a specific exemption is not claimed.

If you have any questions regarding the scope of this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-544-5205 or by e-mail at [kristen@alaskawild.org](mailto:kristen@alaskawild.org).

Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior  
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Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a stylized "Miller".

Kristen Miller  
Conservation Director  
Alaska Wilderness League

April 3, 2018

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Brian May  
USGS FOIA Coordinator  
5522 Research Park Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21228  
foia@usgs.gov

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request**

Dear Mr. May:

Alaska Wilderness League submits the following request for records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552 and its implementing regulations seeking the following records generated, received, obtained, or considered by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) since November 15, 2017:

Any documents related to the development of an oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge pursuant to Title II of Public Law 115-97, including policies, plans, technical or scientific documents, regulations or regulatory documents, National Environmental Policy Act documents, assessments, and any documents related to the subject matter of the law.

Any documents related to the development of lands owned by the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The term “documents” should be given the broadest possible interpretation and includes, but is not limited to, correspondence, memos, notes of meetings and telephone calls, electronic communications (email, text message, electronic chats), meeting notes, reports, and facsimiles.

We would prefer to receive the records in an electronic format, if possible. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)(B). If the anticipated number of documents is voluminous, please let us know and we may be able to limit the scope of the request.

**Fee Waiver Request**

We also request a waiver of any fees associated with this request. Under FOIA, fee waivers are decided on a case-by-case basis and “[d]ocuments shall be furnished without any charge . . . if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” 5

U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Pursuant to the Department of Interior's FOIA regulations, fee waivers are decided on a case-by-case basis and permitted when the disclosure "is in the public interest because its release is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government," and the information "is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." 43 C.F.R. § 2.45(a)(1)–(2).

The factors used to determine whether the information is likely to contribute to public understanding of the operations or activities are the following: (1) whether the records concern government operations or activities; (2) how disclosure is likely to contribute to public understanding of the government operations and activities; (3) how disclosure will contribute significantly to the understanding of a reasonably broad public audience; and (4) how disclosure will enhance public understanding of the subject to a significant extent. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(1)–(4). As discussed below, disclosure of the requested USGS records is in the public interest and this fee waiver request meets all of these criteria. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

**1. The records concern government operations or activities.**

The FOIA request seeks information related to USGS's implementation of Title II of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Pub L. 115-97, tax reform legislation that allows oil and gas leasing on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The legislation identified the Secretary of the Interior as the entity responsible for "establish[ing] and administer[ing] a competitive oil and gas program for the leasing, development, production, and transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain."

USGS's past assessments of these resources were integral to management recommendations for the Arctic Refuge. The agency was also directed by Secretarial Order 3352 to develop a plan for updating the resource assessment of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge. The information will shed light on USGS's role in the implementation of the law. Thus, the request concerns "operations and activities of the government" and this factor is satisfied.

**2. Disclosure is likely to contribute to public understanding of the government's operations and activities.**

The requested documents will provide meaningful information to the public regarding USGS's role in implementing the tax law. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(2)(i). The public currently knows very little about USGS's operations and activities regarding the revision of plans and assessments Refuge under the law. The requested documents would provide that information. The contents of the record and the government operations are logically connected. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(2)(ii). The requested documents will provide the public with insight into government, and specifically USGS, activities, processes, and decision-making.

Disclosure will also contribute to the understanding of a reasonably broad audience and not just to Alaska Wilderness League's understanding. 43 C.F.R. §

2.48(a)(2)(iii). Alaska Wilderness League was founded as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation to further the protection of amazing public lands and waters in Alaska. Alaska Wilderness League's mission is to lead the effort to preserve Alaska's wild lands and waters by engaging citizens and decision makers with a courageous, constant, victorious voice for Alaska. The requested documents will be shared with the public and with clients. Alaska Wilderness League has the qualifications and expertise to analyze and disclose the information in a manner that will inform a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject. 43 C.F.R. §(a)(2)(iv). Alaska Wilderness League has been engaged on issues related to the Refuge for decades. Alaska Wilderness League anticipates weighing in on and educating the public on future decisions regarding the Refuge. Alaska Wilderness League can and will disseminate the requested information to a broad audience that includes local and national conservation groups, rural Native villages, community and citizen groups, statewide coalitions, other interested non-governmental organizations, and individual Alaskans. The information will be shared through various means, including newsletters, reports, articles, electronic action alerts, telephone calls, in-person meetings, and other formal and informal print, digital, and oral communications. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(2)(v). Therefore, disclosure will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and this factor is satisfied.

### **3. Disclosure will contribute significantly to the public's understanding.**

The information being requested is new. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(3)(i). Since the passage of the law, the USGS has not publicly released any additional information regarding the agency's plans to implement the law or revise or update its assessment of the oil and gas resources Refuge in light of the passage of the law. The information would clarify USGS's response to the law. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(3)(ii). Disclosure of the information will increase the level of public understanding of USGS's operations. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(3)(iii). The public currently has very little in the way of information about USGS's plans to revise or update the resource assessments for the Refuge and what role it will play in implementation of the law. Disclosure of the information will enable Alaska Wilderness League to educate the public about those operations. The information is not already publicly available. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(3)(iv). The government has not published the requested information and it is not routinely available to the public. As discussed above, Alaska Wilderness League's mission is to lead the effort to preserve Alaska's wild lands and waters by engaging citizens and decision makers with a courageous, constant, victorious voice for Alaska, and we will disseminate the information to a broad and diverse audience. Therefore, disclosure will contribute significantly to the understanding of a reasonably broad public audience, and this factor is satisfied.

**4. Disclosure will enhance public understanding of the subject to a significant extent.**

Disclosure will significantly contribute to public understanding of the subject of USGS's planning processes regarding an oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge. The public is aware that Congress passed the tax legislation, but has very little information regarding USGS's response to the law. As described above, Alaska Wilderness League will disseminate the requested information to the public through a variety of communication methods. Dissemination of the requested information will significantly increase public understanding about the USGS's Refuge activities and operations. Therefore, disclosure will significantly contribute to public understanding of the subject and this factor is satisfied.

**5. Alaska Wilderness League has no commercial interest in the disclosure of the information.**

Disclosure of the requested records is not in Alaska Wilderness League's commercial interest. 43 C.F.R. § 2.45(a)(2), 2.48(b). Alaska Wilderness League has no primary or secondary commercial interest in the dissemination of the requested information. Alaska Wilderness League was founded as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation to further the protection of public lands and waters in Alaska. Our mission is to lead the effort to preserve Alaska's wild lands and waters by engaging citizens and decision makers with a courageous, constant, victorious voice for Alaska. As described above, the requested information will be disseminated to educate the public and to further the public interest in environmental subjects, and will not be used for commercial purposes. Thus, Alaska Wilderness League has no commercial interest that would be furthered by disclosure and this factor is satisfied.

Based on the foregoing discussion, this fee waiver request meets the FOIA regulation requirements and a fee waiver should be granted. However, if the USGS determines that the fee waiver should not be granted, we request that you contact us prior to incurring any fees to produce the FOIA request.

We also request that USGS respond to this request within twenty (20) working days, as required by law. If the agency chooses to withhold any documents from disclosure pursuant to FOIA exemptions, we request that it: (i) identify each such document with particularity (including title, subject, date, author, recipient, and parties copied); (ii) explain in full the basis on which non-disclosure is justified; and (iii) provide us with any portions of the documents which may be segregated and for which a specific exemption is not claimed.

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If you have any questions regarding the scope of this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-544-5205 or by e-mail at [kristen@alaskawild.org](mailto:kristen@alaskawild.org).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Miller". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Kristen Miller  
Conservation Director  
Alaska Wilderness League