



*Your Land.  
Your Voice.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 16, 2018**

Contact: Corey Himrod

Tel: 202-266-0426 or Email: [corey@alaskawild.org](mailto:corey@alaskawild.org)

**House Leaders blast Interior decision to allow offshore drilling to move forward during shutdown**

Washington – Today, House Natural Resources Chairman Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), incoming head of the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.) and Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-Calif.) sent a letter to Acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt calling on him to reverse a decision made on January 8, 2019, to bring employees back to work unpaid during the government shutdown for the purpose of advancing offshore drilling leases sales.

[You can find the full letter here.](#)

**Statement by Leah Donahey, Legislative Director, Alaska Wilderness League:**

“We are thankful there are now people like Rep. Grijalva in charge on Capitol Hill that care about more than just fossil fuel money and developing every last inch of our public spaces. That Trump continues to hold the federal government and the lives of hundreds of thousands of federal workers hostage over a vanity project is bad enough. That he’s forcing agency workers to continue, unpaid, to advance his ‘energy dominance’ obsession when that money could be better spent on upkeep and maintaining our public lands and waters is ridiculous.

The Arctic Ocean is fragile and remote with little to no infrastructure to deal with potential oil spills. The region continues to warm, and this warming is feeding the increasingly extreme climate-related events we’re seeing across the continent. It would be completely irresponsible to drill there.”

###



[www.AlaskaWild.org](http://www.AlaskaWild.org)

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