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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Senate passes destructive Arctic Refuge drill bill**

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources passed a bill out of committee (13 yes, 10 no) that will pave the way to drill in the biological heart of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Yesterday more 65 professional guides and outfitters that work in the Alaska recreation industry sent a letter to Congress telling them to stand up for the protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and to oppose any attempts to open the Coastal Plain for oil and gas development. [Read the full text of the letter here.](#)

#### **Statement by Kristen Miller, Conservation Director, Alaska Wilderness League:**

“This bill waives every environmental law to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the people and wildlife that depend on it. It will turn our nation’s wildest refuge into an oilfield, despite the protests of the Gwich’in and the American people who have wanted to see the Arctic Refuge protected for more than 30 years.

Senator Lisa Murkowski’s bill opens the Arctic Refuge to oil and gas development, and mandates an aggressive oil and gas program across the entire 1.5 million acres of the Coastal Plain where polar bears den and caribou calve.

America’s Serengeti will become a series of roads, pipelines, well pads and gravel mines. It will risk the subsistence culture of the Gwich’in, increase our nation’s debt, and hand our public lands over to the oil and gas industry.”

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