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New bipartisan legislation will restore protections to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

WASHINGTON – Today, Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA), along with co-lead Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), introduced the “Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act” in the U.S. House of Representatives that will repeal a provision in the controversial 2017 tax legislation mandating leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Arctic Refuge drilling remains deeply unpopular – more than two-thirds of Americans oppose it. Today’s bill restores protections to the coastal plain and sides with the majority of the America public who do not want, have not asked for, and will not accept sacrificing the wildest place in America for shortsighted, destructive fossil fuel production.

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

“The American people never wanted drilling in our nation’s largest and wildest Refuge. It passed, not because of popular sentiment or because of any urgent need for its speculative oil, but because it was jammed into a larger tax bill, skirting a full, fair and open debate. Today, Congressmen Huffman and Fitzpatrick and 100 cosponsors are taking the critical first step to restore protections to this national treasure, giving new hope to the millions of Americans who believe we should protect Arctic Refuge for future generations.”

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