

## Easy Arctic Refuge Talking Points

The oil and gas industry and its allies in Washington, DC, are gearing up for a big fight to push for development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and its Coastal Plain. By attending town hall meetings, you can help show that what Big Oil and its allies want and what the American public want are not the same. The American public wants this iconic place protected once and for all.

### **Messaging:**

The talking points below will help you construct your own message as to why you are asking for their vote on HR1146 to protect the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge

- The Arctic Refuge is one of our nation's most majestic public lands, home to the Porcupine Caribou Herd, denning polar bears, musk oxen, wolves, and nearly 200 species of migratory birds. Its biological heart, the coastal plain, is no place for oil and gas development.
- The Arctic Refuge has sustained the Gwich'in people for thousands of years, and its Coastal Plain provides birthing grounds for the Porcupine Caribou Herd. Protecting the caribou and the Gwich'in way of life is a matter of basic human rights.
- The Administration's rush to sell-off the Arctic Refuge must be halted. Interior is barreling forward with plans for destructive oil and gas exploration and drilling, disregarding the serious biological, cultural and climate impacts fossil fuel extraction will have in the rapidly-warming Arctic.
- Arctic Refuge drilling remains deeply unpopular with the American people who do not want, did not ask for, and will not accept that the wildest place in our country is on track to be sacrificed.
- One in five animals and plants in the U.S., including the iconic polar bear – is at risk of extinction. We owe it to future generations to keep oil rigs out of the Arctic Refuge because once it is destroyed, it is gone forever.

### **RESTORE PROTECTIONS LEGISLATION**

- Reps. Huffman (CA-02) and Fitzpatrick (PA-01) - and more than 180 co-sponsors - have introduced in the Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act. This bill would restore critical protections – stripped by a provision of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act – prohibiting destructive oil and gas drilling on the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge.
- A vote to pass this critical legislation would be the first time in history that Congress will pass a stand-alone bill to advance protections for the Arctic Refuge.
- Oil industry allies in Congress used tax reconciliation legislation to circumvent normal legislative channels because passing an Arctic Refuge drilling bill on its own would have been impossible, as drilling in the Refuge is widely opposed by the American people.
- Momentum is on our side in Congress, and we will work to take the steps necessary to ensure that the Refuge regains these important protections. This is a must pass bill to stop destructive and dangerous drilling that will forever alter the landscape of the Arctic Refuge.