



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 20, 2018

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Orange County Candidates Pledge to Protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Washington – This week, Alaska Wilderness Action launched its Arctic National Wildlife Refuge pledge campaign, asking congressional candidates to take a strong stance for this cherished wilderness, its incomparable wildlife, and the indigenous people who depend on this land for their subsistence and way of life. As they seek election (or reelection) to Congress, we are asking candidates to pledge to restore protections for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and oppose any effort to advance oil and gas leasing and drilling in this national treasure.

Three candidates – Gil Cisneros (Democrat, CA-39), Mike Levin (Democrat, CA-49) and Harley Rouda (Democrat, CA-48) – have already stepped up and taken the pledge.

Statement by Leah Donahey, Political Director, Alaska Wilderness Action:

“We are thrilled to have Orange County candidates Gil Cisneros, Mike Levin and Harley Rouda commit to standing up for America’s last great wilderness. By adopting this pledge, these candidates are signaling a willingness to support the preservation of our public lands and waters, not just in Alaska but across the country.

Southern California residents understand the stakes associated with oil drilling. Offshore development would risk devastating spills and put threatened wildlife in jeopardy. Polling has repeatedly shown that Orange County voters are very much opposed to drilling off their coast because of the negative impact to the environment. They value California beaches and coasts, and want their representatives to make sure these places remain protected. Californians understand that if we can’t stop oil drilling in the wildest place left in America - our largest and wildest wildlife refuge - then all of our coasts and protected landscapes are at risk.

The overwhelming majority of American voters support keeping the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge wild and free, and we sincerely hope that candidates – Democrat and Republican alike – can agree that protecting our environment and our most iconic places for future generations should be a top priority.”

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*Alaska Wilderness Action engages in legislative and political advocacy to protect Alaska’s wild places. Visit the website of our sister organization, Alaska Wilderness League, to learn more about that organization’s education and advocacy to protect Alaska. **News and information released by the Alaska Wilderness Action therefore must be identified as coming from Alaska Wilderness Action.***



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