



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alaska Wilderness Action launches Arctic National Wildlife Refuge candidate pledge campaign

Washington – Today, Alaska Wilderness Action launches its first ever [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 the support of voters for election (or reelection) to Congress, Alaska Wilderness Action is asking candidates to pledge to restore protections for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and oppose efforts to advance oil and gas leasing and drilling in this national treasure.

A large majority of American voters (70%) [opposes drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge](#), and polling done in a [set of 20 Republican-held battleground districts](#) reveals that 64% of likely voters oppose plans to allow oil and gas companies to drill there. Using public events, digital campaigns and organizing, we will raise this critical issue at a time when millions of American voters are paying attention and evaluating their candidate choices.

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

“Conservation and the environment consistently poll as priorities for voters in the 2018 midterms, and are especially critical issues in competitive House districts held by centrist Republicans. By adopting this Arctic Refuge pledge, candidates in these districts will be signaling a willingness to side with the American people and their support for ending President Trump’s war on our public lands.

This is an opportunity for candidates to show they oppose efforts to undo climate progress. To reject policies that favor the oil and gas industry above our national heritage. To speak out against indifference to indigenous rights and the plight of the Gwich’in people, whose freedom and independence to hunt, gather and eat wild foods is threatened. The mad rush to sell out the Arctic Refuge should be debated in congressional elections across the country. Our nation’s largest and wildest wildlife refuge is at stake, as is America’s commitment to preserving our public lands for future generations.

We need the incoming class of elected officials to roll up their sleeves and get to work reversing this trend. Candidates choosing to make this important commitment will be standing up for America’s last great wilderness, home to polar bears, caribou and musk ox, and the preservation of our public lands across the country.”

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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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