



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Conservation and the Environment Emerge as Voter Priorities on Election Day**

Washington, D.C. – Voters on Tuesday delivered an overwhelming admonishment to President Trump and his administration’s pro-extraction, anti-environment policies. Polling done over the summer in a set of 20 Republican-held battleground districts revealed that [64% of likely voters in those districts oppose plans to allow oil and gas companies to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge](#). And recent polling data reported by The New York Times found that nationally, most Americans agree that certain areas should be protected from extraction, [in particular the Arctic Refuge where 68% of Americans oppose oil and gas development](#).

In the run-up to Election Day, Alaska Wilderness Action asked 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. Alaska Wilderness Action asked 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.

#### **Statement by Leah Donahey, Political Director, Alaska Wilderness League Action:**

“Midterm voters had a number of reasons to vote for change after the past two years, but conservation and the environment have become increasingly important electoral issues and we are thrilled to see eight of nine members of our inaugural Arctic Refuge pledge class recognized for their support of America’s public lands. We look forward to welcoming these new Arctic Refuge champions to Washington, D.C., and to working across the aisle with Republican supporters to restore bipartisan Arctic Refuge protections.

“The incoming congressional class will have the chance to reject policies that favor the oil and gas industry above our national heritage. They’ll have the chance 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. Voters wanted a check on Trump’s anti-environment agenda, and this is a step in that direction.

“Candidates that have chosen to make this important commitment have agreed to stand 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.”



[www.AlaskaWildAction.org](http://www.AlaskaWildAction.org)

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*Alaska Wilderness League Action was founded in 2004 with the goal of strengthening the efforts to protect wild Alaska. Please note: Alaska Wilderness League Action is an affiliated but separate organization from Alaska Wilderness League. As a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization, Alaska Wilderness League Action engages in various advocacy and political activities for which Alaska Wilderness League, a 501(c)(3) organization, faces certain legal limitations or restrictions. **News and information released by the Alaska Wilderness League Action therefore must be identified as coming from Alaska Wilderness League Action.***



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