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Election Results a Rebuke to Trump's Anti-Public Lands, Anti-Climate Agenda

Washington, D.C. – Voters on Tuesday sent a strong rebuke to President Trump for his anti-environment policies, electing pro-conservation majority to power in the U.S. House of Representatives and backing a number of clean energy, pro-public lands state ballot initiatives. Yesterday's election results should set the stage for vigorous oversight and opposition to many of the Trump administration's anti-public land agenda items including drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and clearcutting in the Tongass National Forest.

- With several races yet to be called, at least 23 House Republicans who voted in favor of the tax bill that included Arctic Refuge drilling lost their bids for re-election.
- Polls 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](#).
- A Yale study reported by [The New York Times](#) found that 68% of Americans oppose oil and gas development in the Arctic Refuge.
- In Nevada, voters backed an initiative requiring electric utilities to acquire 50 percent of their electricity from renewable resources by 2030.
- Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment that prohibits the exploration for or extraction of oil or natural gas in state waters.
- Connecticut voters approved an amendment requiring a public hearing and a two-thirds vote of the Connecticut General Assembly in order to sell any state land such as state parks, forests and conservation lands to private interests.

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

“Voters have made clear they want their country to protect its outdoor heritage, confront climate change and ensure a cleaner energy future for their children. They want to reign in an agenda that puts the interests of polluters first, exemplified in Alaska by the Trump administration's reckless rush to drill the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, clear-cut the Tongass National Forest and allow mining to threaten Bristol Bay.

These are not partisan issues. Polls show that Democrats, Republicans and Independents want to safeguard our cherished and iconic landscapes for future generations. It's critical that the newly elected House get to work right away, laying the foundation to restore protections for the Arctic National



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Wildlife Refuge while stepping up vigorous oversight of backroom-dealing, cronyism and efforts to skirt and sidestep environmental laws.”

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