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**Trump administration releases rushed environmental review for Arctic Refuge drilling**  
*Final Environmental Impact Statement is the latest part of a politicized, sham process*

WASHINGTON – The Bureau of Land Management today released its [final Environmental Impact Statement \(FEIS\)](#) for oil and gas drilling within the ecologically sensitive coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

**Following is a statement from Adam Kolton, Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League:**

“It’s hard not to be anything but suspect of BLM’s rushed announcement today of the FEIS for oil and gas drilling within the ecologically sensitive coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This announcement comes literally hours after the House held a decisive bipartisan vote on legislation that would overturn the unpopular mandate to drill in our nation’s largest and wildest Refuge.

The politicization of the Arctic Refuge drilling process has been there from the beginning when it was jammed into an unrelated tax reconciliation bill using unrealistically inflated revenue projections. That sham of a vote was followed by a process rushed through an aggressive timeline to ensure the most politically safe outcome. What has resulted is a ruse masquerading as an environmental review.

To no one’s surprise, the administration chose the most aggressive leasing alternative, not even pretending that this is about restraint or meaningful protection. With an eye on developing the entirety of the fragile coastal plain, the administration has been riding roughshod over science, silencing dissent and shutting out entire indigenous communities.

Oil companies now seeking to exploit this national treasure should think twice. The House vote signals massive opposition and public backlash against the rush to drill. More than \$2.5 trillion worth of investors and major banks like Barclays have said they won’t finance it. And the sham process will be vulnerable to legal challenge.”