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Appropriations Deal Fails to Hold Trump Administration Accountable for Arctic Leasing Lies

Washington, D.C. — Congress today released the details of a bipartisan spending deal expected to be signed into law this week.

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

“Today’s appropriations deal leaves on the cutting room floor language requiring that any Arctic National Wildlife Refuge lease sale conducted by the Trump administration meet the billion-dollar revenue target Republicans promised in passing the 2017 Tax Act. That Senate Republicans rejected this language, which passed the House by a wide margin with Republican support, proves that Arctic Refuge development was never about generating revenue for the federal treasury. Instead, it was to get leases in the hands of oil companies as fast as possible, no matter how much U.S. taxpayers are ripped off.

We applaud Congresswoman McCollum and others who fought hard to hold the Trump administration accountable to its own revenue promises. Despite its removal, recent announcements from financial giants Goldman Sachs and UniCredit that financing will not be made available for any Arctic oil and gas leasing means there are now more than a dozen major banks and \$2.5 trillion worth of investors who have signaled that they will not finance the destruction of our most important refuge for Arctic wildlife and a place sacred to the Gwich’in people. We urge oil companies that may be considering bidding in a future Arctic Refuge lease sale to stay on the sidelines. The risks to their reputations and investors, to the climate, and to the people and wildlife of the Arctic are not worth it, even at fire sale prices.

The Arctic Refuge is a national treasure that should not be sacrificed for a speculative fix of oil that will only increase carbon emissions, widen the gaping hole in the deficit, threaten the way of life of the Gwich’in people as well as the caribou, polar bears and countless other species that depend on this cherished landscape.”

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Alaska Wilderness League stands with, serves and supports the many people and organizations that believe in a sustainable future for Alaska. We honor and respect the cultures of Alaska Natives whose way of life remains deeply connected to the state’s land, waters, and wildlife. We believe that Alaska’s long-term economic future and subsistence traditions are inexorably tied to the health and sound stewardship of its natural resources, which support hunting, fishing, tourism and unrivaled outdoor experiences that are central to Alaskans’ quality of life.



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