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New Poll Shows Sweeping Disapproval of Trump's Arctic Refuge Sell-off

WASHINGTON, DC — There has long been widespread disapproval of efforts to allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge), but the intensity of that disapproval has significantly intensified. **A new [bipartisan poll](#) conducted by Democratic firm Hart Research Associates and Republican firm New Bridge Strategy highlights the folly of such an effort for both the President and any candidate seeking to support such destruction.**

The Arctic Refuge is one of the last untouched lands in the country. For thousands of years, the Gwich'in people have depended on this land, calling the coastal plain "The Sacred Place Where Life Begins." These sacred lands are also home to the Porcupine caribou herd, denning polar bears, musk oxen, wolves and nearly 200 species of migratory birds. Yet last week, the Trump administration announced its plans to move forward with a first lease sale to sell-off this sacred land so oil companies can drill.

Among the survey's findings:

- **Nearly two in three voters oppose the Trump administration's moves to open the Arctic Refuge to drilling**
- **63% of voters polled said they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who says we should protect the Arctic Refuge by preventing drilling**

Support for protecting the Arctic Refuge spans gender, race and socioeconomic background. Notably, the survey found that **72% of suburban women voters oppose drilling in the Arctic Refuge.**

Nearly **nine in 10 (87%) Democrats oppose drilling in the Arctic Refuge, as do two-thirds (67%) of independents.** Republicans are more divided on the issue, with a significant plurality (37%) not approving. The case for protecting this sacred land has led to five of the six major U.S. banks — [Goldman Sachs](#), [JPMorgan Chase](#), Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, and [Wells Fargo](#) — to join [two dozen banks around the world](#) that have announced they will not fund any new oil and gas development in the Arctic Refuge (Bank of America remains the only major U.S. bank that has failed to make such a commitment). Despite significant rhetoric by the Trump administration in response to these business decisions, the poll found that **even 58% of Fox News viewers endorse banks' decision on this.**

The American people agree: The administration's rush to sell-off the Arctic Refuge must be halted. Its plans for destructive oil and gas drilling disregard the serious biological, cultural and climate impacts



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fossil fuel extraction will have in the rapidly warming Arctic. The American people do not want, did not ask for, and will not accept that the wildest place in our country is on track to be sacrificed.

[You can find the polling toplines here.](#)

This poll was commissioned by the Arctic Refuge Defense Campaign (ARDC), which was created following the passage of the 2017 Tax Act. ARDC is supported by a diverse constituency of organizations. To learn more, go to: <https://www.arcticrefugedefense.org>.

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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



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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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