



**Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government**  
**P.O. Box 81080**  
**Venetie, AK 99781**  
**907-849-8165**

Dear House Natural Resources Committee Chair Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman,

As the three Neets'ąjį Gwich'in Tribal governments of Vashraqıı K'qq (Arctic Village) and Vıjıhtajıı (Venetie), we write in unified opposition to provisions in the budget reconciliation bill that would unnecessarily and irresponsibly pave the way for oil and gas development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Our people have lived in deep spiritual and cultural connection with the Porcupine Caribou Herd for countless generations. Every season, the herd provides our people with sustenance both practically and spiritually. However, our way of life depends on a healthy Porcupine Caribou herd—one of the last remaining large caribou herds in the country—being able to traverse the land of the Arctic Refuge as they have for millennia.

The provisions outlined in the budget reconciliation bill targeting the Arctic Refuge seek to reinstate flawed leases, waive environmental and subsistence reviews, and block judicial oversight. These provisions represent an unprecedented attack on both our rights as Indigenous people and the irreplaceable landscapes that sustain our people. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge would cause irrevocable damage to the caribou's migratory path and, in turn, the Gwich'in cultural and spiritual connection to them.

Additionally, these provisions will yield a mere .001% of the \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts the reconciliation bill is looking to recoup, even under the most optimistic circumstances. Major banks and insurers refuse to finance Arctic drilling, recognizing what we have always known: this destructive path towards oil and gas exploration and drilling in the Arctic Refuge would cause irreversible damage to land and caribou that have sustained our people since time immemorial.

We urge you to remove these harmful provisions from the bill and work alongside our Tribal governments to ensure permanent protection for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Sincerely,

The Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government  
Arctic Village Council  
Venetie Village Council



ARCTIC VILLAGE COUNCIL  
P.O.BOX 22069  
ARCTIC VILLAGE, AK  
PHONE# 907-587-5523  
Fax# 907-587-5128

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