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November 29, 2023

Dear Chairman Stauber, Ranking Member Ocasio-Cortez and members of the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources:

The Arctic region of Alaska boasts vast landscapes that are home to thousands of species of wildlife. Indigenous people have lived on this land for centuries, relying on caribou and other animals for food, clothing and spiritual connection. Arctic wildlife are already struggling with climate change and needing to adjust to warmer, changing habitats. To give them a fighting chance at long-term survival, we need to safeguard what's left of their home. That requires no leasing and no drilling.

The Biden administration has taken important steps toward protecting this critical region including canceling the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority's (AIDEA) leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and kicking off a rulemaking process to protect more than 13 million acres of critical habitat in the Western Arctic Reserve. We are writing to oppose the "Alaska's Right to Produce Act of 2023" (HR 6285) which would reverse this progress and take us in the wrong direction. As our nation and the world transition toward clean energy sources, millions of acres set aside for nature will be a gift to future generations. We must not destroy it by drilling for the last drops of oil.

Sincerely,

Lisa Frank Executive Director Washington Legislative Office Ellen Montgomery Public Lands Campaign Director