

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 8, 2005

The Honorable Jim Nussle  
Chairman  
Committee on the Budget  
309 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Spratt  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Budget  
214 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nussle and Ranking Member Spratt:

We are writing to express our opposition to any language in the fiscal year 2006 budget resolution that assumes revenue from drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or open-ended reconciliation instructions to the Resources Committee that would facilitate opening the Arctic Refuge. For the past four budgets, you have chosen not to legislate on the Arctic Refuge in the context of trying to agree on a budget. We ask you to continue to follow that wise path.

As you know, the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge currently is protected against additional oil and gas exploration or development. Nevertheless, the Bush Administration is expected, once again, to send Congress a budget that authorizes an auction of oil and gas leases within the boundaries of the Refuge, specifically within the area that defines one of the most magnificent and rare unspoiled ecosystems in the world. This proposal would sacrifice the pristine nature of this existing wilderness for a limited supply of oil and an increase in federal receipts of a little more than a billion dollars.

Because of the unique nature of this natural treasure, Congress in 1980 prohibited oil and gas exploration or production on the coastal plain of the Refuge. The majority of Americans has consistently opposed repealing these protections. In fact, in a Zogby International survey released on December 21, 2004, Americans opposed drilling in the Arctic Refuge by a margin of fifty-five to thirty-eight percent<sup>1</sup>. Because of this widespread opposition, we believe it would be imprudent for the Committee on the Budget to assume any new revenue from this source at this time.

The Budget Resolution was designed to ensure that important fiscal matters be debated and decided swiftly, so as to ensure the budgetary health of our government. It is simply not appropriate to attach such a major policy decision to the budget debate, thereby preventing members from publicly and thoroughly debating this issue. In fact, the American people are even more opposed to opening the Refuge to drilling through the budgetary process than they are to the actual drilling: in the same Zogby International

---

<sup>1</sup> Zogby International, "Americans Reject Oil Drilling in Arctic Refuge",  
<http://www.zogby.com/news/ReadNews.dbm?ID=946>

poll, the people of America expressed their disapproval of this approach by a margin of fifty-nine to twenty-five percent.

The future of the Arctic Refuge is not, by any stretch of the imagination, a matter that is fundamental to the budgetary health of this country. Rather, it is a major policy question, perhaps the most important and controversial environmental policy question before this Congress, and its budgetary impact is merely incidental to the sweeping and precedent-setting impact of industrializing this pristine national treasure.

We strongly urge you to reject any requests to assume revenue from drilling activity that is prohibited under current law and widely opposed throughout America. If the law ever changes, there will be adequate time to incorporate new assumptions regarding federal revenue from this source in subsequent budgets.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey

Nancy Pelosi

Steny Hoyer

Robert Menendez

Charles B. Rangel

Rosa L. G. Lujan

George Miller

Hilda L. Solis

Jeff Flake

Raul M. Grijalva

Bill Lira

Van Oey

Earl Blumenauer

Frank Pallone, Jr.

Mark Udall

Russ Holt

Ale E Kildee Peter DeFazio

Dick Boucher Henry A Waxman

Lance Evans Ben Cardin

Michael S. W. Meeks Donald M. Payne

Bob Auer Joe E. Serrano

Jim Moran Samuel Wickerman

Barny Frank Conrad E Haase

Lynn C Woolsey Peter J. Visclosky

Major R. Owens Martin O. Sabo

Tom Dingell Nita Lowey

Shel Byrd Carolyn B Maloney

Maxine Waters Mary Kaptur

Michelle Mula

Shelley Butley

Melissa Bean

Debbie Musser White

John B. Ruan

Jane R. Baldini

Linda J. Sanchez

Stephanie Vallejos

[Signature]

John Schatz

Beaul Shu

Ve Ellen Tauscher

Jim McDemott

Tom Z.

[Signature]

Alan Bauer

John W. Over

Daniel Linki

Sam Farr

Russell Davis

Loretta Sanchez

Bob Gatt

Phil V. Gutierrez Jane Harms

Gene Bachman Bob Filner

Maureen Hendry Darlene Hooley

Kent C. And Corine Brown

Ed Pastor John F. Tierney

Ed Case Jim Langemo

Wm. Lucy Clay Carolyn McCarthy

Alan Smith Tom Lyons

Robert Wexler Jim Eshoo

Hyd Daggett Pete Stark

Stephen J. Finkel Jim Cooper

Steve Israel Alburt R. Brown

Eric L. Enger Chris Van Natta

Elijah E. Cummings Tom Cull

Harold S. Brown Dana DeBette

John P. ... Grace J. Napolitano

Juanita ... Michael ...

Louise M. Slaughter Lois Capps

Betty McColl Paul ...

Ramona ... Barbara ...

Bob ... Dennis J. ...

Patrick J. ... Carolyn C. ...

Tom Allen

\_\_\_\_\_



Page 2

---

Markey, Edward J.	Pelosi, Nancy
Hoyer, Steny	Menendez, Robert
Rangel, Charles	DeLauro, Rosa
Miller, George	Solis, Hilda
Inslee, Jay	Grijalva, Raul
Price, David	Obey, David
Blumenauer, Earl	Pallone, Frank
Udall, Mark	Holt, Rush

Page 3

---

Kildee, Dale	DeFazio, Peter
Boucher, Rick	Waxman, Henry
Evans, Lane	Cardin, Benjamin
McNulty, Michael	Payne, Donald
Sanders, Bernard	Serrano, Jose
Moran, James	Ackerman, Gary
Frank, Barney	Neal, Richard
Woolsey, Lynn	Visclosky, Peter
Owens, Major R.	Sabo, Martin Olav
Dingell, John	Lowey, Nita
Brown, Sherrod	Maloney, Carolyn
Waters, Maxine	Kaptur, Marcy

Page 4

---

Michaud, Michael	Berkley, Shelley
Bean, Melissa	
Wasserman Schultz, Debbie	Larson, John
Crowley, Joseph	Sanchez, Linda
Baldwin, Tammy	Jones, Stephanie Tubbs
Wu, David	Schakowsky, Janice
Sherman, Brad	Tauscher, Ellen
McDermott, Jim	Bishop, Timothy
Weiner, Anthony	Becerra, Xavier
Olver, John	Lipinski, Daniel
Farr, Sam	Davis, Susan
Sanchez, Lorreta	Scott, Robert

Page 5

---

Gutierrez, Luis	Harman, Jane
Jackson, Jesse	Filner, Bob
Hinchey, Maurice	Hooley, Darlene
Andrews, Robert	Brown, Corrine
Pastor, Ed	Tierney, John
Case, Ed	Langevin, James
Clay, Wm. Lacy	McCarthy, Carolyn
Smith, Adam	Ryan, Timothy
Wexler, Robert	Eshoo, Anna
Doggett, Lloyd	Stark, Fortney Pete
Lynch, Stephen	McGovern, James
Israel, Steve	Wynn, Albert



Page 6

---

Engel, Eliot	Van Hollen, Chris
Cummings, Elijah	Udall, Tom
Berman, Howard	DeGette, Diana
Levin, Sander	Napolitano, Grace
Millender-McDonald, Juanita	Honda, Mike
Slaughter, Louise McIntosh	Capps, Lois
McCollum, Betty	Miller, Brad
Emanuel, Rahm	Lee, Barbara
Etheridge, Bob	Kucinich, Dennis
Kennedy, Patrick	Kilpatrick, Carolyn
Allen, Thomas	

Page 7

---

Meehan, Marty