

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1889

To preserve the Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, as wilderness in recognition of its extraordinary natural ecosystems and for the permanent good of present and future generations of Americans.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 4, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. GALLEGRO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To preserve the Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, as wilderness in recognition of its extraordinary natural ecosystems and for the permanent good of present and future generations of Americans.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Udall-Eisenhower Arc-

5       tic Wilderness Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Americans cherish the continued existence  
2 of expansive, unspoiled wilderness ecosystems and  
3 wildlife found on their public lands, and feel a  
4 strong moral responsibility to protect this wilderness  
5 heritage as an enduring resource to bequeath undis-  
6 turbed to future generations of Americans.

7           (2) It is widely believed by ecologists, wildlife  
8 scientists, public land specialists, and other experts  
9 that the wilderness ecosystem centered around and  
10 dependent upon the Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic  
11 National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, represents the  
12 very epitome of a primeval wilderness ecosystem and  
13 constitutes the greatest wilderness area and diversity  
14 of wildlife habitats of its kind in the United States.

15           (3) President Dwight D. Eisenhower initiated  
16 protection of the wilderness values of the Arctic  
17 coastal plain in 1960 when he set aside 8,900,000  
18 acres establishing the Arctic National Wildlife Range  
19 expressly “for the purpose of preserving unique wild-  
20 life, wilderness and recreational values”.

21           (4) In 1980, when the Congress acted to  
22 strengthen the protective management of the Eisen-  
23 hower-designated area with the enactment of the  
24 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act  
25 (Public Law 96–487), Representative Morris K.

1 Udall led the effort to more than double the size of  
2 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and extend stat-  
3 utory wilderness protection to most of the original  
4 area.

5 (5) Before the enactment of the Alaska Na-  
6 tional Interest Lands Conservation Act, the House  
7 of Representatives twice passed legislation that  
8 would have protected the entire Eisenhower-des-  
9 ignated area as wilderness, including the Arctic  
10 coastal plain.

11 (6) A majority of Americans have supported  
12 and continue to support preserving and protecting  
13 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, including the  
14 Arctic coastal plain, from any industrial development  
15 and consider oil and gas exploration and develop-  
16 ment in particular to be incompatible with the pur-  
17 poses for which this incomparable wilderness eco-  
18 system has been set aside.

19 (7) When the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge  
20 was established in 1980 by paragraph (2) of section  
21 303 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Con-  
22 servation Act (Public Law 96-487; 94 Stat. 2390;  
23 16 U.S.C. 668dd note), subparagraph (B)(iii) of  
24 such paragraph specifically stated that one of the  
25 purposes for which the Arctic National Wildlife Ref-

1       uge is established and managed would be to provide  
2       the opportunity for continued subsistence uses by  
3       local residents, and, therefore, the lands designated  
4       as wilderness within the Refuge, including the area  
5       designated by this Act, are and will continue to be  
6       managed consistent with such subparagraph.

7               (8) Canada has taken action to preserve those  
8       portions of the wilderness ecosystem of the Arctic  
9       that exist on its side of the international border and  
10       provides strong legal protection for the habitat of  
11       the Porcupine River caribou herd that migrates an-  
12       nually through both countries to calve on the Arctic  
13       coastal plain.

14              (9) The extension of full wilderness protection  
15       for the Arctic coastal plain within the Arctic Na-  
16       tional Wildlife Refuge will still leave most of the  
17       North Slope of Alaska available for the development  
18       of energy resources, which will allow Alaska to con-  
19       tinue to contribute significantly to meeting the en-  
20       ergy needs of the United States without despoiling  
21       the unique Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic Na-  
22       tional Wildlife Refuge.

23              (b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—The Congress hereby  
24       declares that it is the policy of the United States—

1           (1) to honor the decades of bipartisan efforts  
2           that have increasingly protected the great wilderness  
3           ecosystem of the Arctic coastal plain;

4           (2) to sustain this natural treasure for the cur-  
5           rent generation of Americans; and

6           (3) to do everything possible to protect and pre-  
7           serve this magnificent natural ecosystem so that it  
8           may be bequeathed in its unspoiled natural condition  
9           to future generations of Americans.

10 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL WILDERNESS, ARC-**  
11 **TIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, ALASKA.**

12           (a) DESIGNATION.—A portion of the Arctic National  
13 Wildlife Refuge in Alaska comprising approximately  
14 1,559,538 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled  
15 “Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Coastal Plain Proposed  
16 Wilderness”, dated October 20, 2015, labeled with Map  
17 ID 03–0172, and available for inspection in the offices of  
18 the Secretary of the Interior, is designated as a component  
19 of the National Wilderness Preservation System under the  
20 Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

21           (b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of the Interior  
22 shall administer the area designated as wilderness by sub-  
23 section (a) in accordance with the Wilderness Act as part  
24 of the wilderness area already in existence within the Arc-

1 tie National Wildlife Refuge as of the date of the enact-  
2 ment of this Act.

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