

## **What you can do this Summer for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge?**

Thanks to all of you who have called your Representatives concerning H.R. 1146. We have had a significant increase in co-sponsorship support for the Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act (H.R. 1146). As of May 24, 164 Representatives have signed on, and many of those are from the freshmen class, including Rep. Kim Schrier. Please call and thank her at 202-225-7761.

Due to that support and after a hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee the bill passed out of committee and is now in the process of heading to the full floor. Very exciting to see this stand-alone bill moving so fast. Please share this news with family and friends.

Recently, the Chair of the Interior Appropriations Committee (Rep. McCollum D-MN) included a Minimum Bids Provision in her bill. Her Minimum Bids Provision means that leases cannot be sold in the Arctic Refuge at the average going price in the north slope of AK (about \$31.00 an acre historically/presently) but must raise the promised (in the tax bill) revenue to be sold, around \$2500 an acre. Her putting this language into the Interior Appropriations bill is really a big lift and victory for the Arctic Refuge. There is a slim chance that industry would still bid this high for any acres. Please call and thank Rep. McCollum at 202-225-6631.

Watch for further opportunities to take a stand against development in this unique Refuge. This administration has stated it is on track to sell leases still this year, and we know they will attempt to come back next winter with the seismic exploration proposal.

Thanks,

Mary and Tim Gallagher, Lake Wenatchee

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