



Arctic Refuge Action

Exercising Your Right to Write

Concerned citizens do make a difference, but only when they make their voices heard. Writing a letter to your Members of Congress is one of the most effective ways to make your voice heard on an important issue. The best part is it's really easy.

**For a sample letter or more information, visit
<http://www.ArcticRefugeAction.org>**

Here are a couple of important tips to keep in mind when writing your member of Congress.

DO address your letter properly

The Honorable (full name)
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable (full name)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator (last name),

Dear Representative (last name),

DO identify the bill or issue

The budget reconciliation bill, which will likely contain language that could open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling.

DO make your letter reasonably brief

Keep your letter concise and to the point, and try to keep it to one page. It is not necessary that your letter be typed, only that it be legible.

DO ask for a response

For instance, "I look forward to hearing your position on this matter."

DO make it personal

A personal letter is far more effective than a form letter or petition. Express why this issue is important to YOU. For instance, "Every spring I enjoy watching tundra swans and red-throated loons migrate from their Arctic Refuge nesting areas through New Jersey."

DO ask for a specific action

For instance, "I am writing to urge you to vote against any budget reconciliation bill that would allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

Sample Writing Points:

- The Arctic Refuge coastal plain is the last 5% of Alaska's Arctic Slope that is off limits to oil drilling.
- The coastal plain is the biological heart of the Arctic Refuge. It is home to a variety of wildlife including polar bears, musk ox, wolves, caribou, and millions of migratory birds from six continents.
- One of the last subsistence native cultures in North America, the Gwich'in people, would be devastated by oil development in the refuge.
- The oil fields of Prudhoe Bay, which average over 400 oil spills a year, demonstrate that even "responsible" drilling can cause tremendous damage.
- Like Yellowstone National Park, the Grand Canyon and the Everglades, the Arctic Refuge is part of our national heritage and must be protected for future generations.
- . . . that is why I am asking you to oppose any legislation, even the budget, if it allows oil drilling in the Coastal Plain of America's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The letters you write are a small investment in time and energy, but will have an important impact!