



Arctic Refuge Action

*Talking Points for Your August Recess District Meetings:
**Keep Arctic Refuge Drilling out of the Budget
Reconciliation Bill!***

For more information, visit <http://www.ArcticRefugeAction.org>

1. There are some places that should be off-limits to oil drilling and industrial development, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of them.

- The harm to wildlife habitat for polar bear, caribou, and millions of migratory birds would be permanent and irreparable.
- We have a moral responsibility to save wild places, such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, for future generations.
- Hundreds of miles of pipelines and roads, airstrips, power lines and pumping stations and housing would be needed, resulting in a sprawling industrial complex throughout the biological heart of the Refuge, as well as tankers to transport this oil—risking further oil spills in critical habitat.

2. Drilling in the Refuge will not solve our energy problems.

- It is not worth damaging America's greatest national wildlife refuge for what the U.S. Geological Survey says would be far less oil than the U.S. consumes in a single year.
- And even the oil companies admit none of the oil would reach the market for 10 years.
- America consumes 25 percent of the world's oil but has less than 3 percent of the world's proven reserves. We simply cannot drill our way to energy independence.

3. If we want to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, we should conserve more energy, waste less, and develop more fuel-efficient cars.

- Energy experts agree that making cars more fuel-efficient and investing in renewable forms of energy are the most effective things the U.S. can do right now to decrease our dependence on foreign oil and increase national security.
- We should rely less on oil and gas for our energy needs and instead, expand development of alternative forms of energy such as wind, solar, and ethanol.

4. The American people strongly oppose drilling in the Arctic Refuge.

- By a margin of 53 percent to 35 percent, Americans oppose proposals to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.¹
- Our country has remained committed to its protection for nearly 50 years.

5. Arctic Refuge drilling should not be snuck through in the budget process.

- *73 percent* of Americans believe Arctic drilling is too important to sneak through in the budget process, and feel strongly that if it is to be considered at all, it should be brought to a vote on its own merits.ⁱⁱ
- The issue of oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge is too important to the American public and future generations to be snuck through in the budget bill, in an attempt to circumvent the established process.
- According to the Energy Information Association, oil from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would have **little to no impact** on oil prices. Therefore, it is fiscally irresponsible to include assumed revenue in the budget reconciliation bill.

ⁱ A bipartisan telephone poll of 1,003 registered voters conducted January 13-17, 2005, by Republican firm Bellwether Research and Democratic pollsters Lake, Snell, Perry and Associates

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