



Natural Resources Defense Council

May 24, 2006

U.S. House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Re: HR 5429, Arctic Refuge drilling bill

Dear Representative,

On behalf of NRDC's more than 1.2 million members and activists, I urge you to vote against HR 5429, the misnamed American-Made Energy and Good Jobs Act, sponsored by Representative Richard Pombo which would open the Arctic Refuge to oil and gas drilling. This bill won't provide relief at the pump and, it won't give us energy independence or security. We can't drill our way to lower gas prices. According to government experts at the Energy Information Administration, oil from the Refuge would reduce gas prices by only a penny per gallon – and that wouldn't happen until 2025.

Instead of wasting time on dead-end drilling in a National Wildlife Refuge, Congress should be focusing on things that would make a real difference. At best oil from the Arctic Refuge would meet America's needs for a few months. In fact, the first drop of Arctic oil wouldn't even come online for ten years. The US consumes 25 percent of the world's oil every year, but we sit on only 3 percent of the world's supply. Clean renewable energy sources and making our cars go farther on a gallon of gas are the best ways to reduce consumers' costs now and in the future. They are the fastest, cheapest, cleanest way to reduce families' energy costs, increase energy security, end our dangerous oil addiction, and reduce global warming.

There are some places that should be off-limits to oil drilling and industrial development, and the Arctic Refuge is one of them. While doing nothing to solve our energy problems, drilling in the Arctic Refuge would ruin one of America's last wild places. The Refuge supports large populations of caribou, musk oxen, polar, black and brown bears, and millions of migratory birds. The area is also sacred to the Gwich'in, the people of the caribou, who have lived in the area adjacent to the refuge for thousands of years. Drilling will damage the coastal plain's environment and caribou herd, and therefore jeopardize one of the last native subsistence cultures left in North America. That's why our country has remained committed to its protection for nearly 50 years, America's Serengeti, with its nearly 200 species of wildlife. The Arctic Refuge is simply too precious to destroy.

On behalf of all our members I strongly urge you to vote against HR 5429.

Sincerely,

Frances Beinecke
President

Online letter reflects member count correction as of 5/25/06.