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H.R. 6285

To hand the Arctic over to Big Oil

This week, House Republicans continue their political crusade to check off the wish lists of industries that have consistently lied to, ripped off, or harmed the American people in the name of bigger profits. **H.R. 6285 (Stauber; R-Minn.), the Alaska's Right to Produce Act, will sell off the Arctic — one of the most ecologically important and fragile landscapes in the world — to Big Oil.**

H.R. 6285 is a disaster for Arctic wildlife, the traditional way of life for many Alaska Native communities, and climate action.

The Arctic is ground zero for climate change; the area is warming at four times the global average. The home and way of life for many Alaska Native communities is under serious threat, especially those who depend on the area's natural resources for subsistence. More drilling will further devastate the landscape and iconic wildlife, like grizzlies, caribou, and polar bears, and produce more climate-causing pollution.

The Biden administration has taken bold action to protect the Arctic by canceled Trump-era oil leases and sales in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and issuing a final rule to protect 13 million acres of Special Areas in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A).

H.R. 6285 would sell out the Arctic to do Big Oil's bidding by reinstating the ANWR leases, rescinding the final rule for NPR-A, and opening special and sensitive places to drilling, like the Bering Sea.

The American people want climate action, not more fossil fuels. MAGA Republicans refuse to listen.

The vast majority of Americans want the U.S. government to do more about climate change. Fortunately, Democrats secured the largest investment in climate and clean energy in history through the Inflation Reduction Act. In contrast, House Republicans have yet to bring a single climate action bill to the floor, spending time peddling handouts and giveaways to Big Oil, like H.R. 6985, instead.

By opening the Bering Sea to drilling, H.R. 6285 is one of the most extreme giveaways to Big Oil yet.

The Bering Sea is one of the most historically, culturally, and environmentally significant places on the planet. At the request of a major coalition of tribes, a 112,300-square-mile area was designated as the North Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area and withdrawn from oil and gas drilling. H.R. 6285 would shamelessly undo these protections.



For the Gwich'in people, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is "the sacred place where life begins."

Former President Trump already tried to sell off ANWR to Big Oil. It flopped.

The Trump administration held the first-ever lease sale in ANWR in 2021. Only half of the leases received bids, with the vast majority only receiving the minimum bid of \$25/acre. All told, the sale brought in less than \$15 million, not even 1% of the estimated revenue.

MAGA Republicans' "DRILL, BABY, DRILL" strategy helps Big Oil, not the American people.

- Big Oil made **\$152 billion in profits**, **\$35.2 billion in stock buybacks**, and **\$23.8 billion in CEO bonuses** from 2017–2020.
- Meanwhile, five of the top oil producers alone **spilled nearly 4.5 million gallons of oil, fuel, and other harmful substances**.
- When accounting for climate and health impacts, **American taxpayers lose \$649 billion per year in subsidies and handouts to Big Oil**.
- **The U.S. is already the world's number one producer and exporter of oil and gas**. It's not getting us energy independence; it's getting Big Oil more profits at our expense.

AS THE CLIMATE CRISIS THREATENS EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE, ESPECIALLY IN MANY ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES, WE CAN'T SELL OUT THE ARCTIC TO BIG OIL. VOTE NO ON H.R. 6285.