

Keep Arctic Refuge Drilling OUT Of the Transportation Reauthorization bill!

Once again, Congress is playing the same old tired political game with our nation's wildest refuge. Faced with a \$12 billion gap in the transportation reauthorization bill, the House leadership is pushing a proposal that is not only dead on arrival but also fails to provide the necessary revenue.

Many Republicans and Democrats agree; it is time to go back to the drawing board to come up with a viable solution to our transportation funding woes – and leave America's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge wild and untouched.

DRILLING IN THE REFUGE TO PAY FOR THE TRANSPORTATION BILL SIMPLY DOESN'T ADD UP!

- ✓ If the Arctic Refuge were opened to drilling, it would take at least 10 years for the federal treasury to receive what are, at best, highly speculative royalty revenues. Our transportation needs must be funded now. Pinning vital construction jobs and infrastructure upgrades on futuristic speculation is not good government.
- ✓ Nobody really knows how much oil might be produced from the Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain. Estimates touted by pro-drilling advocates are based on wildly exaggerated claims. For example, Chairman Doc Hastings (R-WA) uses high-end revenue assumptions that have a 5% probability of being realized, according to federal government experts.
- ✓ The Alaska delegation has long threatened that, if the Arctic Refuge were opened, they would sue to receive a 90-10 split of revenues, based on rights claimed under the Alaska Statehood and Mineral Leasing Acts. That makes funding the Transportation reauthorization bill even more unrealistic.
- ✓ This proposal has already been proclaimed "dead on arrival." If it passes in the House of Representatives, it will not survive in the Democrat-controlled Senate.

REPUBLICAN LEADERS ON TRANSPORTATION OPPOSE THIS APPROACH!

- ✓ Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) specifically left Arctic Refuge drilling out of the Senate version of the transportation reauthorization bill because it would not provide the necessary revenue. "EPW ranking member Inhofe says the House's approach to funding its highway bill isn't good," according to Politico's Morning Transportation. "There is no money in expanded energy production," Sen. Inhofe told Politico.
- ✓ Rep. LaTourette (R-OH), a member of the transportation committee, has spoken out against using Arctic Refuge drilling as a funding source. From E&E November 18th: "Most importantly, the plan still leaves the highway trust fund short of the necessary hundreds of billions of dollars."

There are some places in this country that define what it means to be American—the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of those places. For the past fifty years our country has remained committed to protecting this unparalleled area and the abundant wildlife that depends on it, including polar bears, musk oxen, caribou and millions of birds from around the globe.