



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

November 2, 2005

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Support the Cantwell amendment and any other amendments to the budget reconciliation bill to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Oppose final passage of the budget reconciliation bill if Arctic drilling language is not removed.**

Dear Senator:

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The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) is the political voice of the national environmental community. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of Members of Congress on environmental legislation. The Scorecard is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the press.

LCV urges you to support the Cantwell amendment to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by striking drilling language from the budget reconciliation bill, as well as any other amendments to protect the Refuge from drilling. In addition, we strongly urge you to oppose final passage of the reconciliation bill if drilling language is not removed from the bill. A vote for a budget reconciliation bill that calls for drilling in the Arctic Refuge is a vote for drilling in the Arctic Refuge.

Protecting the Arctic Refuge is among the highest priorities for the national environmental community. This incomparable wilderness is home to polar bears, grizzlies, and millions of migratory birds, and is where the 130,000-member Porcupine caribou herd gives birth each year. It also helps sustain the subsistence culture of 7,000 Gwich'in people.

Drilling in the Refuge would devastate this national treasure, but it wouldn't solve our energy problems. The United States consumes 25% of the world's oil but has less than 3% of the world's proven oil reserves, so we can never drill our way to energy independence. And despite claims to the contrary, Arctic drilling would affect gas prices by only about a penny per gallon at its peak in 2025. Instead of drilling in the Arctic Refuge, Congress should support real solutions to our energy problems like increasing fuel economy and helping people weatherize their homes.

We urge you to protect the Arctic Refuge by voting YES on the Cantwell amendment to strike drilling language from the budget reconciliation bill. We further urge you to vote NO on final passage if drilling language remains in the bill. LCV has scored and double-scored votes on the Arctic Refuge on numerous occasions in the last two decades. The Political Advisory Committee will strongly consider including votes on this issue in compiling LCV's 2005 Scorecard. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Deb Callahan, President