

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 4, 2005

The Honorable Richard Pombo
Chairman
Committee on Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Pombo,

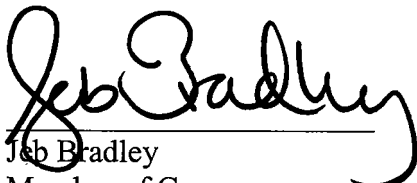
We are contacting you in strong opposition to any attempt to meet the Resources Committee reconciliation requirement by opening the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling or exploration.

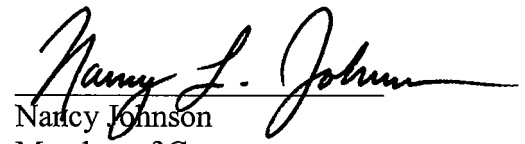
We believe that the reconciliation process is an inappropriate venue to be debating this important environmental issue. We understand and support the need to reign in mandatory spending and support the reconciliation process. However, we would have serious concerns about any budget bill that contains provisions authorizing the development of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Therefore, it is our belief that an effort to include the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the reconciliation will further complicate an already difficult situation.

As you know the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge represents one of the last large pristine natural environments left in our country. In 1980 Congress recognized the need to protect this national treasure and prohibited any oil and gas drilling or exploration on the coastal plain. We believe that the debate on opening this unique land to oil and gas exploration should be done outside of the budget process, not as part of an omnibus bill.

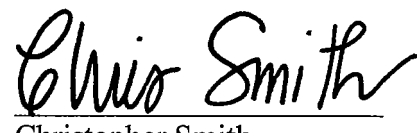
Thank you for your consideration of this important matter, and we look forward to working with you throughout the reconciliation process.

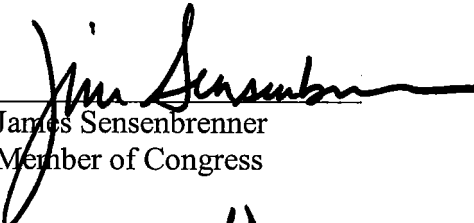
Respectfully,

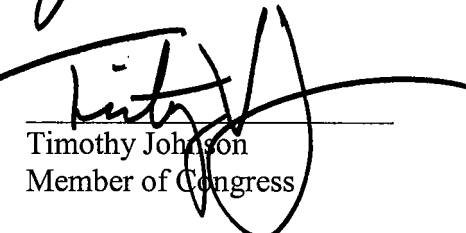

Jeb Bradley
Member of Congress

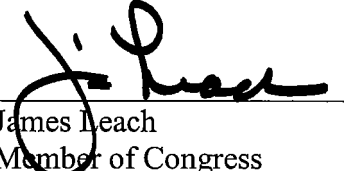

Nancy Johnson
Member of Congress


Sherwood Boehlert
Member of Congress


Christopher Smith
Member of Congress

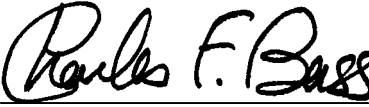

James Sensenbrenner
Member of Congress



Timothy Johnson
Member of Congress



James Leach
Member of Congress



Wayne Gilchrest
Member of Congress

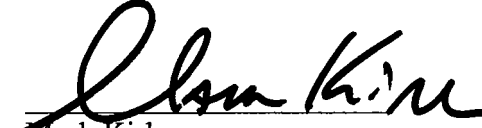

Sue Kelly
Member of Congress



Charles Bass
Member of Congress



Bob Inglis
Member of Congress

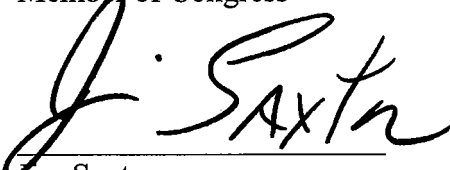

David Reichert
Member of Congress


Michael Castle
Member of Congress

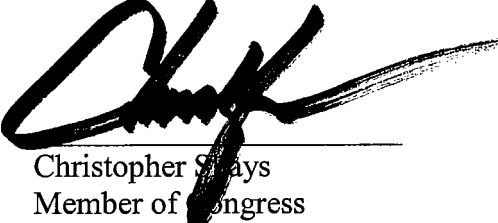

Mark Kirk
Member of Congress



Roscoe Bartlett
Member of Congress

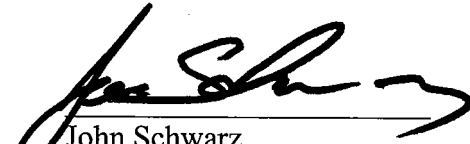

Michael Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress


Jim Saxton
Member of Congress



Michael Ferguson
Member of Congress


Christopher Stays
Member of Congress



Mark Kennedy
Member of Congress



John Schwarz
Member of Congress



Tom Davis
Member of Congress



Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



Jim Ramstad
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Dennis Hastert
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Nussle
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
309 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515