

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 23, 2015

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

We write to thank you for your tremendous efforts to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Arctic Refuge is an exceptional part of America, worthy of the highest level of protection as wilderness. We applaud you and President Obama for promoting the highest possible level of protection for this pristine landscape and thank you for recommending that new areas within the Arctic Refuge, especially the Coastal Plain, be designated as wilderness in the Refuge's final Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was set aside nearly 55 years ago for its "unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values." This unparalleled landscape is truly one of America's greatest wild places. The Coastal Plain is the biological heart of the Refuge, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service calls the "center for wildlife activity" in the Refuge. Protecting this important area as wilderness will not only protect these wildlife resources but also ensure that this area remains as a pristine and untouched piece of America.

Protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has always been an issue that rose above party lines. President Eisenhower first protected the area in 1960 and we thank you for continuing the bipartisan legacy of protecting this untrammelled wild place by recommending its designation as wilderness.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a place with wilderness values that are unmatched by nearly any other public lands in America. This extraordinary area belongs to all Americans and we strongly support the Department's recommendation that the Coastal Plain and other important areas be designated as wilderness so that the Refuge can be protected for future generations. We will continue to work to achieve the Congressional action needed to support your recommendation to ensure that the Arctic Refuge can be protected forever. Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting this special place.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



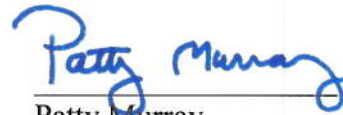
Harry Reid  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Patrick J. Leahy  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



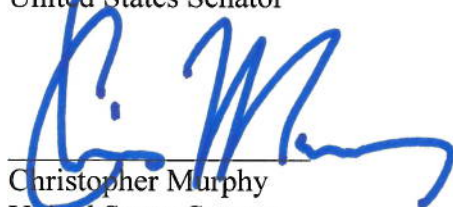
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Al Franken  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



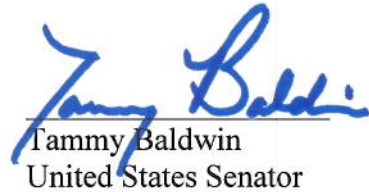
Christopher Murphy  
United States Senator



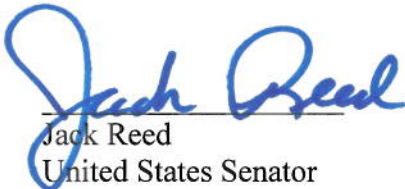
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator




Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



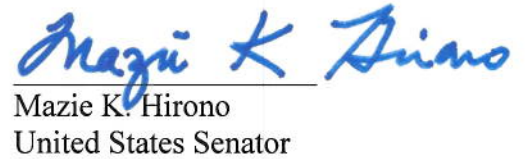
Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



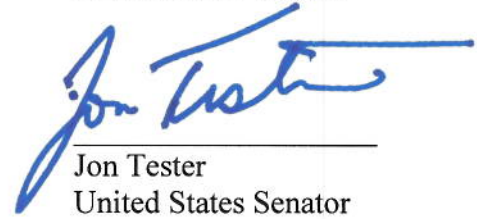
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



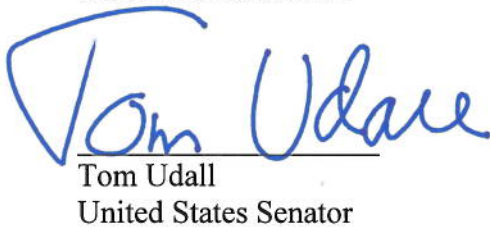
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



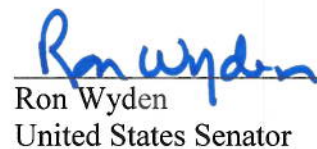
Gary Peters  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator