EDWARD J. MARKEY
7TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS
www.house.gov/markey

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
THE INTERNET
RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2107

2108 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–2107
(202) 225–2836

DISTRICT OFFICES:
5 HIGH STREET, SUITE 101
MEDFORD, MA 02155
(781) 396–2900

188 CONCORD STREET, SUITE 102
FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702
(508) 875–2900

March 16, 2001

The Hon. James Nussle, Chairman
Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nussle:

As you know, the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is currently protected against additional oil and gas exploration or development. Nevertheless, President Bush has just sent to Congress a Budget "Blueprint" that assumes an auction of oil and gas leases within the boundaries of the Refuge, specifically within the area that defines one of the most magnificent and rare unspoiled ecosystems in the world.[1] This assumed proposal would sacrifice the untrammeled and pristine nature of this existing wilderness for a limited supply of oil and an increase in federal receipts of an estimated $1.2 billion in the year 2004.

Because of the unique nature of this natural treasure, Congress in 1980 prohibited oil and gas exploration or production on the coastal plain of the Refuge.[2] Repealing these protections is opposed by millions of Americans and by many Members of Congress, both Democrats and Republicans. Because of this widespread opposition, we believe it would be imprudent to assume any new revenues from this source at this time. When you consider the environmental values at stake in this extraordinary wilderness area, we believe it would also be a mistake to do so.

We strongly urge you to reject the President's request to assume revenues from drilling activity that is prohibited under current law and widely opposed throughout America. If the law ever changes, there will be plenty of time to incorporate new assumptions regarding federal revenues from this source in subsequent budgets.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey	Rush Holt	Jane Harman
Adam Smith	Martin Frost	David Bonior

---

[1] Budget for FY 2002, "A Blueprint for New Beginnings", Table S-8, p. 192.
[2] Section 1003, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Action (ANILCA), Pub. L. 96-487, 94 Stat. 24. For a detailed discussion of Presidential authority regarding oil or gas exploration in the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge, see "Memorandum Re Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Response to Congressman

Letter to Chairman Nussle/2

Elijah Cummings
Tammy Baldwin
James Moran
Mel Watt
Bill Luther
Grace Napolitano
Carolyn Maloney
Maurice Hinchey
Jerrold Nadler
Jim McDermott
Lloyd Doggett
Dale Kildee
Peter DeFazio
Dennis Kucinich
Eliot Engel
Peter Deutsch
James Langevin
Jim Maloney
Stephanie Tubbs-Jones
David Phelps
Frank Pallone
Bernie Sanders
John Lewis
John Olver
Tony Hall
Bob Filner
Rosa DeLauro
William Delahunt
Thomas Allen
Barbara Lee
Marcy Kaptur
Jay Inslee
Tim Roemer
Alcee Hastings
Joseph Hoeffel
Rick Boucher
Robert Wexler
Sander Levin
Howard Berman
Lynn Woolsey
Gary Ackerman
Ellen Tauscher
John Conyers
Earl Blumenauer
Barney Frank
Mark Udall
Lynn Rivers
Pete Stark
Nita Lowey
Mike Honda