

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 8, 2005

The Honorable David Dreier
Chairman
Committee on Rules
H-312, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Dreier:

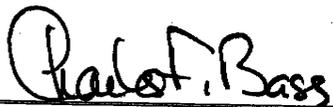
We are writing to express our strong opposition to bringing the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 to the floor of the full House while it contains a provision allowing drilling within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

President Eisenhower correctly set aside the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for the benefit of future generations 45 years ago; in accordance with his vision, Congress later expanded the Refuge and provided this territory with its lasting wilderness designation. As you know, Title VI of this legislation would open the Coastal Plain of this national treasure to leasing for oil and natural gas. Including the drilling provision in the Deficit Reduction Act would undermine the protection of all public spaces by valuing the worth of the potential resources contained within these lands over their conservation value.

The U.S. budget deficit totaled \$318.6 billion for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30. Passing an appropriate budget reconciliation package is far too important to jeopardize by adding the ANWR provision. Moreover, the critical value of this Refuge to the arctic and sub-arctic wildlife is undeniable. The development footprint on the region, even using the most advanced technology and methods, would significantly disrupt this fragile ecosystem. Rather than reversing decades of protection for this publicly held land, focusing greater attention on renewable energy sources, alternate fuels, and more efficient systems and appliances would yield more net energy savings than could come from ANWR and would have a higher benefit on the nation's economic leadership and security.

We appreciate the difficulty inherent in constructing a reconciliation bill, and strongly urge you to remove the ANWR drilling authority and revenue assumptions from its language.

Sincerely,





John A. Labardo

Carl Delaney

Jack Kelly

Jim Astor

Wayne T. Gilbert

Jim Garcia

Kenneth Ehlers

Jim Lane

D. Baird

Clayton Kain

Mike Ferguson

Tom Ammons

Christy Shays

Cheryl Boehlert

Leo Scudery

Mike Justice

Jim Cunningham

Jim Welch

Andy

Mike Depina

Jim Tomstad

Bob Unger

Mark Kennedy

Two columns of horizontal lines for writing, with the signature 'Mark Kennedy' written on the top line of the left column.

Signatures

1. Charles Bass
2. Nancy Johnson
3. Frank A. LoBiondo
4. Rodney Frelinghuysen
5. Sue Kelly
6. Jim Saxton
7. Wayne Gilchrest
8. Jim Gerlach
9. Vernon Ehlers
10. Jim Leach
11. David Reichert
12. Mark Kirk
13. Mike Ferguson
14. Rob Simmons
15. Christopher Shays
16. Sherwood Boehlert
17. Jeb Bradley
18. Mike Castle
19. James Sensenbrenner
20. Jim Walsh
21. Timothy Johnson
22. Michael Fitzpatrick
23. Jim Ramstad
24. Bob Inglis
25. Mark Kennedy