OVERTURNING LAND MANAGEMENT FOR EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

Passed: 215-210

SUMMARY:

The House passed a resolution to overturn the Bureau of Land Management's Central Yukon resource management plan in Alaska in order to subject these lands to mining and drilling for oil and gas by extractive industries *(September 3, 2025, Roll Call No. 225)*.

BACKGROUND:

Land use plans, including resource management plans written by the Bureau of Land Management, are used to manage public lands at the local level and engage a variety of interested groups to consider how these plans impact wildlife, which is particularly important for vulnerable species. These processes involve broad engagement from stakeholders ranging from scientists, to members of the community, to industry, and they take into consideration wildlife, including highly imperiled plants and animals. Traditionally, local plans like these have not been subject to the political whims of Congress.

The Central Yukon Resource Management Plan in Alaska, which provides important habitat for species like caribou, salmon, and many more, includes protections for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, which some want to remove. Doing so at the expense of wildlife would allow industry to open the area to mining exploration and leasing, coal extraction, and drilling for oil and gas.

Rep. Nick Begich (R-Alaska) sponsored this resolution, H.J. Res. 106, to disapprove of the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan. For the first time ever, Congress used the Congressional Review Act this session to overturn land use plans including for the Central Yukon. As a result, this vote replaces science and local community input with stark political interests. This unprecedented move will create confusion and uncertainty in the future for similar plans from political, legal, and industry standpoints. By erasing the Central Yukon plan, which took years of public input, analysis, and community engagement to develop, Congress leaves vital wildlife habitats at risk from expanded mining and drilling and could undermine the future of public land planning.

OUTCOME:

On September 3, 2025, the House passed H.J. Res 106, 215-210. "No" was the pro-conservation vote.