

REVOKING THE ALASKA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES RULE

Passed: 52-47

SUMMARY:

The House passed H.J. Res. 69 under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), which permanently revokes the Alaska National Wildlife Refuges Rule that was intended to help conserve native carnivores—including bears, wolves and their young—on millions of acres of national wildlife refuges in Alaska. (*March 21, 2017, Roll Call No. 92*)

BACKGROUND:

The Alaska National Wildlife Refuges Rule, issued by the Obama administration in 2016, conserves native carnivores on as many as 76 million acres of national wildlife refuges in Alaska. The rule was put in place to protect bears, wolves and other carnivores from aggressive hunting policies aimed at artificially increasing populations of moose and other game species for hunting. This important rule upholds bedrock environmental laws like the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act and the finalization of this rule stood as an important message that science, not politics, governs our public lands.

Overturing the Alaska National Wildlife Refuges Rule through the CRA allows the state of Alaska to attempt to apply its unscientific predator control policy on federal refuges, authorizing extreme practices, including killing mother bears with cubs and denning wolves with pups and baiting, snaring and scouting bears from the air for hunting. H.J. Res. 69 also challenges federal authority to manage national wildlife refuges, thereby encouraging further efforts by Congress and special interest groups to sell off and sell out our public lands and resources across the country.

OUTCOME:

On March 21, 2017, the Senate passed H.J. Res. 69, 52-47. “No” was the pro-conservation vote. President Donald Trump signed the resolution into law on April 3, 2017.