

5/29/18

Arctic Refuge Hearing

Fairbanks, Alaska

The patch of land in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge the senators are hoping to develop is 60 miles from the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, and because of development, they estimate it could take as many as 10 years for oil from ANWR to enter the pipeline. Will the world still be on an oil economy then? The conservative outlook from Bank of America sees oil demand peaking by 2030. Are energy companies interested in ANWR? The world is quickly moving past fossil fuels. China pumped \$126.6 billion into energy generating renewables in 2017 alone. The estimated \$1.1 billion revenue from an ANWR leasing program is highly unlikely, aside from already being socially and environmentally irresponsible. Opening ANWR will not live up to the hype.

In addition to the bad economics, Earth is experiencing the hottest average annual temperatures in recorded history due to the highest levels of CO2 in 800,000 years. Lisa Murkowski recently said herself: "What is happening with ocean acidification is important to me as an Alaskan. Really it should be important to every one of us." Every barrel of oil sent south and burned comes back to Alaska as damage to the delicate balance of Arctic life.

And lastly, as Ronald Yarnell said, "Alaska's North Slope is vast. The small portion within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the only piece where oil development is prohibited. Huge swaths of the National Petroleum Reserve are being opened as we speak. Enormous finds have recently been discovered there and elsewhere. These finds can easily help to keep oil flowing in our pipeline for decades to come. The world is awash in oil." We quite simply don't need to drill more. What we do need is to manage our resources better – for our state, our communities, and Alaska's future.

Large majorities across GOP-controlled districts oppose ANWR drilling. I and many other Alaskans do not support development in ANWR. The oil industry may have brought prosperity to Alaska, but we have to stop living in the past. According to an apocryphal account, when Winston Churchill was asked to cut arts funding to support the war effort, he replied: "Then what are we fighting for?" Although there is no record of Churchill saying this, I think there is a lesson here. If we justify drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Range to improve the state economy, we risk losing what makes Alaska a great state. What are we selling our state for?

Sincerely,



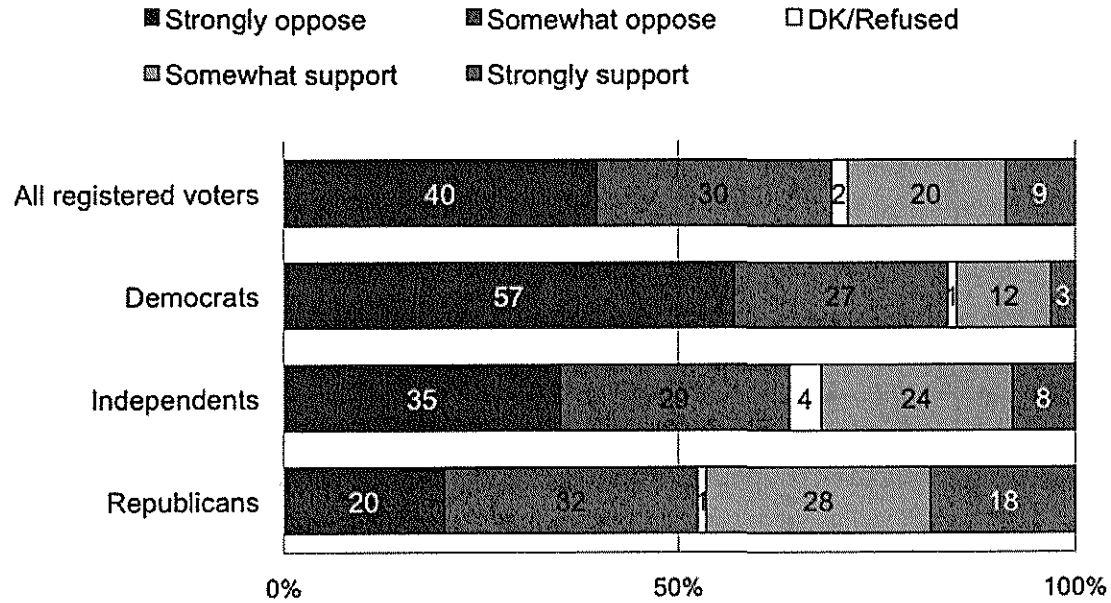
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Registered Voters Oppose Drilling In The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

- Including a Majority of Republicans -



How much do you support or oppose the following policies?
 [Drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge]
 October, 2017. Base: Registered voters (n=1,109).

