To amend Public Law 115–97 (commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act) to repeal the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil and gas program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2019

Mr. Huffman (for himself, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Aguilar, Ms. Barragán, Ms. Bass, Mr. Beyer, Mr. Blumenauer, Ms. Bonamici, Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Brown of Maryland, Ms. Brownley of California, Mr. Carabajal, Mr. Cárdenas, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Casten of Illinois, Ms. Castor of Florida, Ms. Judy Chu of California, Mr. Cicilline, Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. Clay, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Welch, Mr. Crow, Mr. DeFazio, Ms. DeGette, Mrs. Demings, Mr. DeSaulnier, Mr. Deutch, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Michael F. Doyle of Pennsylvania, Ms. Eshoo, Mr. Espaillat, Mr. Gallego, Mr. Garamendi, Mr. Gomez, Ms. Haaland, Mr. Hastings, Ms. Hill of California, Mr. Higgins of Louisiana, Mr. Himes, Ms. Jayapal, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Kildee, Mr. Kilmer, Mr. Krishnamoorthi, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Lee of California, Mr. Levin of California, Mr. Ted Lieu of California, Mr. Lipinski, Ms. Lofgren, Mr. Lowenthal, Mr. Luñán, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, Ms. Matsui, Ms. McCollum, Mr. McEachin, Mr. McGovern, Mr. McNerney, Ms. Meng, Mr. Morelle, Mr. Moulton, Ms. Mucarsel-Powell, Mr. Nadler, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Neguse, Ms. Norton, Ms. Omar, Mr. Panetta, Mr. Peters, Ms. Pingree, Mr. Pocan, Mr. Quigley, Mr. Raskin, Ms. Roybal-Allard, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Serrano, Ms. Shalala, Mr. Shires, Mr. Smith of Washington, Mr. Soto, Ms. Speier, Mr. Suozzi, Mr. Tonko, Mr. Van Drew, Ms. Velázquez, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mrs. Watson Coleman, Ms. Waters, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Mr. Malinowski, Mr. Roude, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Connolly, Mrs. Trahan, Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Khanna, Mr. Perlmutter, Mr. Trone, and Mr. Cunningham) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.
A BILL

To amend Public Law 115–97 (commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act) to repeal the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil and gas program, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Americans cherish the continued existence of expansive, unspoiled wilderness ecosystems and wildlife found on their public lands and feel a strong moral responsibility to protect this wilderness heritage as an enduring resource to bequeath undisturbed to future generations of Americans.

(2) It is widely believed by ecologists, wildlife scientists, public land specialists, and other experts that the wilderness ecosystem centered around and dependent upon the Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, represents the very epitome of a primeval wilderness ecosystem and constitutes the greatest wilderness area and diversity of wildlife habitats of its kind in the United States.
(3) President Dwight D. Eisenhower initiated protection of the wilderness values of the Arctic coastal plain in 1960 when he set aside 8,900,000 acres establishing the Arctic National Wildlife Range expressly “for the purpose of preserving unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values”.

(4) When the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1980 by paragraph (2) of section 303 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 96–487; 94 Stat. 90; 16 U.S.C. 668dd note), subparagraph (B) recognized the following four additional purposes of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge:

(A) “To conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity including the Porcupine caribou herd”.

(B) “To fulfill the international treaty obligations for the United States with respect to fish and wildlife and their habitats”.

(C) “To provide . . . the opportunity for continued subsistence use by local residents”.

(D) “To ensure . . . water quality and quantity within the refuge”.

(5) A majority of Americans have supported and continue to support preserving and protecting
the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, including the
Arctic coastal plain, from any industrial development
and consider oil and gas exploration and develop-
ment in particular to be incompatible with the pur-
poses for which this incomparable wilderness eco-

(6) Canada has taken action to preserve those
portions of the wilderness ecosystem of the Arctic
that exist on its side of the international border and
provides strong legal protection for the habitat of
the Porcupine caribou herd that migrates annually
through both countries to calve on the Arctic coastal
plain.

(7) The Gwich’in people of eastern Alaska and
Northwestern Canada have relied on the Porcupine
caribou herd for millennia and caribou is a vital cul-
tural, spiritual, and nutritional resource for the
Gwich’in.

(8) The Arctic is being impacted by climate
change at unprecedented levels. Temperatures are
rising at twice the rate of the rest of the country,
and wildlife and habitat that depend on the Arctic
are being detrimentally impacted.

(9) Title II, section 20001 of Public Law 115–
97 (commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act)
would allow an oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain. Oil and gas activities are not compatible with the protection of this national treasure.

(10) Repeal of section 20001 would best protect the unspoiled ecosystem of the Coastal Plain, the human rights of the Gwich’in, and the integrity of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

The Congress hereby declares that it is the policy of the United States—

(1) to honor the decades of bipartisan efforts that have increasingly protected the great wilderness ecosystem of the Arctic coastal plain;

(2) to sustain this natural treasure for the current generation of Americans;

(3) to honor and respect the human rights of the Gwich’in; and

(4) to do everything possible to protect and preserve this magnificent natural ecosystem so that it may be bequeathed in its unspoiled natural condition to future generations of Americans.
SEC. 4. REPEAL OF ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE OIL AND GAS PROGRAM.

Section 20001 of Public Law 115–97 is hereby repealed.