

Untitled document

By Kevin Landrigan

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U.S. Congressman Charles Bass, R-N.H., went to bat for the environmental community to protest drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska as a form of revenue for the federal highway bill.

Bass authored a letter to House Speaker John Boehner that received the co-signatures from at least five other House Republicans asking for that section to come out.

"Opening ANWR for exploration and development raises serious concerns from both a fiscal and environmental perspective," Bass wrote in the letter obtained by The Sunday Telegraph.

"We believe that this measure can achieve broader support and better force Senate consideration if ANWR were removed."

This isn't the first time Bass has campaigned against ANWR. He wrote a similar letter in 2005.

Catherine Corkery, with The Sierra Club, said Bass' consistent opposition to drilling in the pristine area should be commended.

"He deserves his props on this issue, because he's always been there and once again he's one House Republican who's taken a lead on it," she said.