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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
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Subject: Democratic bid to block ANWR drilling in budget falls short

By Anthony Adragna

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The Senate narrowly shot down a bid today from Sens. [Ed Markey](#), [Michael Bennet](#) and [Maria Cantwell](#) to remove language from the budget that could open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling.

The amendment failed by a vote of 48 to 52, with Democrat [Joe Manchin](#) and Republican [Susan Collins](#) breaking with their parties.

Though the budget doesn't explicitly mention ANWR, it calls for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to identify ways of raising an additional \$1 billion in revenue. Chairwoman [Lisa Murkowski](#) has long sought to open the area to drilling, and including the language in the budget reconciliation would allow Republicans to circumvent a filibuster.

Alaska Sen. [Dan Sullivan](#) slammed the Democratic amendment ahead of the vote. "To me, we've reached kind of a low point in politics if there's not bipartisan support for more energy," he told POLITICO.

Democrats and environmental groups have long opposed opening the pristine wilderness area to energy exploration, with Markey describing the budget language as "a Big Oil polar payout." More than 300 groups sent a [letter](#) to senators today opposing any ANWR language in the budget.

Senators also shot down two amendments from Utah Sen. [Mike Lee](#). One to [bar regulating species](#) that exist in only one state under the Endangered Species Act failed 49-51. The other, which failed 50-50 with Vice President Mike Pence absent, would have made the federal government [compensate local governments](#) for the full value of the property taxes they are losing when much of their jurisdiction is covered by federal land.

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