



CoastalPlain\_EIS, BLM\_AK &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov&gt;

---

**[EXTERNAL] comments on ANWR lease considerations and EIS**1 message

---

**LIAM ANTRIM** <PAMLIAM@msn.com>

Mon, Jun 4, 2018 at 11:15 AM

To: "blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov" &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov&gt;

2 June, 2018

Karen Mouritsen, Acting State Director  
Bureau of Land Management, Alaska  
[222 W 7th Avenue #13](#)  
[Anchorage, AK 99513](#)

Ms. Mouritsen,

Please consider these comments on the proposed lease and drilling program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I worked for nearly 20 years in federal civil service on marine area management. Through this experience, I gained an understanding of the multiple challenges faced by public land management employees like you and the team charged with the development of this Environmental Impact Statement.

I strongly oppose efforts to develop an oil and gas program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. From all reports and images I've seen, ANWR is an extraordinarily special American treasure that for decades we have chosen NOT to develop. The first choice, the responsible choice in an Environmental Impact Statement, is to continue NOT developing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The 'no action' alternative is very important to this analysis and must be fully developed. Because of the huge positive value of the undeveloped Arctic Refuge, it only makes sense for this to be developed as a highly viable option for decision makers. ANWR is fully eligible for Wilderness designation and that option should be **completely** considered and evaluated in an EIS.

This administration has indicated an intent to expedite the review process and hold lease sales in 2019. This seems like a ridiculously short time frame to accomplish a complete analysis as required under the law, as necessary to meet the Department's obligations to responsibly steward one of the crown jewels of the nation's National Wildlife Refuge System.

Energy development portends permanent harm to the Arctic Refuge's fragile environment. Scars on the landscape from heavy equipment; spills are inevitable; animals will be impacted by habitat fragmentation. In addition to impacts within ANWR, developing the Arctic Plain will exacerbate the effects of climate change globally. Direct, indirect, and synergistic effects of this proposed development are truly world-wide in scope and that analysis must be fully developed. The analysis should thoroughly assess the need to mobilize the oil resources – is this supply now when renewable energy development and conservation can meet most of our nation's needs, or is the development primarily a means of supporting the regional economy?

In the action alternatives, all impacts must be evaluated for their direct effects as well as those that will extend far beyond the footprint of any physical development. The analysis must include lease stipulations and best management practices that are commensurate with the premier quality of the Nation's best, most intact, most extensive National Wildlife Refuge. The Department must gather additional information for what is not yet known while considering all the issues identified during scoping. I am confident that an honest, thorough, complete analysis, including the detailed

6/6/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - [EXTERNAL] comments on ANWR lease considerations and EIS

economic analysis needed, will clearly indicate why an oil and gas program does not belong in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Sincerely,

**Liam Antrim**  
**207 Pond Lane**  
**Sequim, Washington 98382**