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[EXTERNAL] I oppose drilling in ANWR

1 message

Farrier <farrier@q.com>

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To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

To those who are taking public comment regarding drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge I would like to say that I firmly oppose the drilling. As someone who lived and worked in Alaska for 26 years I feel strongly about this issue. I graduated from UAF in 1975 and my husband and I lived outside Fairbanks in a cabin we built with hard work and determination over the years. We both worked on the Alyeska Pipeline; during the construction and afterwards. My college degree is in Archaeology and one summer I spent in the Livengood area working on salvage archaeology along the proposed path of the pipeline. During these various jobs I have seen a lot of pipeline construction and all the mess that goes along with it. I drove Fairbanks to Prudhoe Bay hundreds of times so I understand the impact that the oil industry has on the Arctic. That is why I oppose oil drilling in ANWR. This coastal area is too special to be turned over to the oil industry. We made an agreement with Canada that this piece of land that spans two countries would remain as a refuge. We need to keep our word and the coastal plain is best used by the wildlife that resides there.

The oil companies are not even bidding on the leases that are available to them now. Why do we need to allow them to have ANWR too? Oil and Gas exploration is not at all compatible with the purpose of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The oil and gas industry needs to focus on those leases in the Petroleum Reserve which were set aside for them.

Please do not allow ANWR to become another Prudhoe Bay. I've spent a lot of time in Prudhoe, or "The Beach" as we called it and it is an industrial site with raised roads and industrial work sites everywhere. There is no way to develop ANWR and keep it pristine. All credibility is lost when that claim is made. I've worked at Prudhoe. It is not pristine and never will be again.

Lastly....can we just please leave something untouched for the generations to come? Does this one greedy generation get to gobble up everything? Perhaps we should leave some areas intact for the future citizens to decide what they would like to do with it.

I say we leave ANWR as it is for the wildlife that lives there so that we have a place that can remain the ultimate Alaska, free of man and man's industry. A place like no other on earth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sue Anderson