



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

1 message

Mandy Glettler <mglettler@hotmail.com>

Wed, Jun 20, 2018 at 8:34 AM

To: "blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov" <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to submit a comment expressing that I oppose any and all oil and gas development on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is one of the last remaining wild and untouched places in the United States, and is an incredibly important habitat for birds and other wildlife: home to the Porcupine Caribou Herd, musk oxen, wolves, imperiled polar bears, and a nesting ground to nearly 200 species of migratory birds that migrate to six continents and all 50 states. The Arctic Refuge is too special to drill and our representatives should do everything they can to protect this wild and wonderful place.

As a passionate outdoor enthusiast, I do not believe we should use our public lands for energy extraction. As an American, I collectively own our nation's great public lands, and I do not believe they should be utilized to drill and frack and mine for minimal profits that cannot balance our budget as suggested in December's tax bill.

During my outdoor adventures, I have witnessed the impacts of climate change firsthand. Our snowpack is diminishing. Our winters are shorter. What should be falling as snow is, in fact, falling as rain. Not only does climate change threaten our nation's thriving \$887 billion-dollar outdoor recreation economy, but it threatens human health and welfare.

The people of the Arctic see these climatic changes, too. Temperatures in the Arctic are rising at twice the rate of the rest of the nation. Villages are eroding into the sea, permafrost melt is damaging infrastructure, and food sources are disappearing. Drilling for fossil fuels will only compound these existing devastating impacts.

I do not believe we should drill the Arctic Refuge for fossil fuels that will only lead to increased greenhouse gas emissions responsible for these very climatic changes. Oil and gas development activities should not be allowed on the Coastal Plain. In the draft EIS, I ask the Bureau of Land Management to consider the option to not drill as well as the impacts of climate change and the associated costs of climate damages.

Furthermore, using the budget process to open the refuge does not add up. The economic claims are out of touch with reality, and using the budget rather than a regular vote bypasses any real debate. It is unwise to

make such a monumental decision without going through the usual legislative steps. The Arctic Refuge it deserves to remain wild, both for the wildlife and for all of us who benefit from the splendor of this refuge.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amanda Glettler

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