



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

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**[EXTERNAL] I oppose development in ANWR**

1 message

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**Genevieve Gagne-Hawes** <gagnehgj@gmail.com>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Thu, May 31, 2018 at 9:22 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

As a lifelong Alaskan, born here in 1981, I strongly oppose opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling. This is the first political issue I remember being aware of as a young girl; even then, when I didn't know much about politics, or how the resources of generations--and the people who lived on and with the land--are sold for a flash of money in the now, I saw the beauty and power of this place, and opposed its development. I feel even more strongly about that now.

ANWR is one of the last remaining wild and untouched places in the United States, and is an incredibly important habitat for wildlife, particularly polar bears, which are endangered, and caribou. The Refuge is the calving ground of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, which contains nearly 200,000 animals. These caribou are an essential part of the Gwich'in people's way of life and merit full protection in the EIS.

Oil and gas drilling would have devastating impacts on this pristine and fragile ecosystem, caused by the massive infrastructure needed to extract and transport oil. Drilling the Arctic would fragment vital habitat and chronic spills of oil and other toxic substances onto the fragile tundra would forever scar this now pristine landscape and disrupt its wildlife.

I strongly urge the Bureau of Land Management to drop the prospect of drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The area should be protected because of its precious wildlife habitat values alone and for the appreciation and enjoyment of future generations, those Alaskan children who, like me, will grow up with a primal urge to defend our land and all the animals it protects and nurtures.

Thank you for considering my response to the EIS.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Gagne-Hawes

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