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[EXTERNAL] NO Oil Drilling Leasing for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge1 message

Linda Goschke <lafrites@aol.com>
To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Mon, Jun 18, 2018 at 5:09 AM

Dear Nicole,

Oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is inappropriate and should never be allowed. It endangers hundreds of species of birds, mammals, fish, and plants native to this area and dependent upon its pristine environment to survive. It is the breeding ground for many of these animals, some of which migrate thousands of miles, at great risk, to reach this open, relatively free of human intervention, natural environment. Even the native Gwich'in people consider this space sacred, because it is the calving ground for the caribou they depend on for survival. They recognize how important working with and maintaining the balance of nature is to the survival of us all.

This Refuge belongs to ALL of us, as confirmed in the 1980 Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act. This means the land is to be conserved and preserved as a National Wildlife Refuge. The profit-motivated construction, transportation, and other acts of drilling negate the ability to preserve and protect this valuable natural space and will, in fact, destroy and further compromise this Refuge's ability to continue to support already stressed creatures and plants, including the humans seeking the solace and rejuvenation found in this wild, undisturbed space. The chance of adding yet another oil spill accident to this area should be a frightening enough possibility to make all of us say "NO!" to any proposal for drilling in a Wildlife Refuge. We have already proven we are unable to protect wildlife and humans when this happens, killing thousands and poisoning the spill area for years.

We do not need to destroy one of the few remaining, large expanses of wilderness for the sake of removing a limited amount of fuel. There are better options, including the development of solar generators, not requiring the drilling of a single well in this Refuge. Let's find ways to encourage fuel companies to put their money into developing better, affordable, renewable energy sources, instead of destroying one of the few, nearly pristine, natural resources we have left that truly continues to support survival.

Allowing wealthy oil companies to profit on the destruction of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge impoverishes all the rest of us citizens, the true owners and custodians of this National Refuge space.

No oil and gas drilling leasing should be allowed for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge!
The real, true cost to life is too high.

Sincerely,

Linda Fry Goschke

Wildlife Photographer, U.S. Citizen, and President of Friends of Carpenter's Woods
Philadelphia, PA