



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

**[EXTERNAL] Artic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain**

1 message

**Tim** <timothy.gallagher53@gmail.com>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 12:38 PM

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing to submit comment as part of the scoping process for the Bureau of Land Management's Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain. As a Park and Recreation professional with over 40 years of experience, voting citizen, and previous visitor to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, I strongly value the importance of public lands to our nation's quality of life, and vehemently oppose any short-term oil and gas development in the Arctic Refuge.

In my role as Director of Parks and Recreation agencies such as Los Angeles County, I have come to understand and appreciate the concept of publicly owned and protected land which has a unique and unassailable aspect to the citizens of this country. From vast National Monuments to the smallest municipal park, our country has set a worldwide precedent for the protection of natural wilderness, wildlife, and resources.

Earlier this decade, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service conducted a rigorous assessment that resulted in a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain. Among other recommendations, the Plan called for the Coastal Plain to be officially designated as wilderness. This recommendation was the result of an open public process.

But the proponents of drilling in Congress had to attach it to an unrelated must-pass massive rewriting of the U.S. tax code. They had to make sure it avoided normal rules for passage and debate. They had to lie and mislead about its economic and environmental impact. They had to hold votes at 2 AM on legislation that no one had even seen.

They cut all of these corners because they knew that a standalone vote on drilling in the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain would fail, and that the American public overwhelmingly opposes drilling. But Congress was willing to ignore the will of the people, ignore the science, and ignore the heritage of the native Alaskan's so they could pass unrelated tax cuts.

As the Bureau of Land Management moves forward with the EIS process, it is imperative that every applicable law and regulations be satisfied before this ill-advised proposal proceeds. There should be no further loopholes or special considerations given. The American people deserve a fair and transparent process that follows both the spirit and letter of the law.

Sincerely,

Tim Gallagher