



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

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**[EXTERNAL] oppose allowing oil and gas leasing on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**1 message

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**emily** <emilyviandier@yahoo.com>

Sat, May 5, 2018 at 5:57 AM

Reply-To: emily &lt;emilyviandier@yahoo.com&gt;

To: "blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov" &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov&gt;

BLM,

I am opposed to opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas drilling. Oil and gas leasing would severely harm the environment in the Arctic, as it would be along the Coastal Plain, an area that already has a very sensitive ecosystem and could easily collapse under the weight of human activity, especially such harmful activities as extracting oil and gas. That area is home to countless species, some endangered and some not, who all rely on a pristine environment and no ecological interruptions in order to survive. Polar bears alone would suffer tremendously, as the Coastal Plain is one of their main denning areas. Allowing oil and gas drilling would also drive climate change even more, and in an area that's already seeing a decrease in its annual ice formation. Everything the oil and gas companies would do--from exploration to drilling to the infrastructure needed to extract the oil and gas--would have a deleterious effect on the animals, plants, environment and native peoples in the Arctic, with resounding effects echoing around the world (due to the climate change it would help to further along). Opening the Arctic to oil and gas leasing is not the direction the U.S. should be taking--we should be trying to mollify the needs for oil and gas rather than expanding our efforts regarding it.

Thank you,

Jamila HadjSalem

Stafford, CT