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[EXTERNAL] drilling in ANWR

1 message

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

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to comment on the proposed 400,000 acres up for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. There is no good reason to drill on a refuge that has been set aside/ protected for 58 years. We have a glut of oil and petroleum on the market; we are not in an energy crisis. The US Fish and Wildlife study done in 2015 (a million public comments, a multi-year review) concluded that irrevocable damage would occur in the refuge from drilling if allowed to occur- from roads, infrastructure construction and inevitable leaks and spills. (I have friends in Anchorage who train regularly for oil spills in a program that was set up from funds garnered by the not-forgotten Exxon Valdez incident.) In addition, we need to be moving to a clean-energy economy, as residents in Alaska are aware. I understand the effects of global warming are being felt there most strongly.

In short:

1. Oil and gas has a surplus of oil and gas leases and permits.
2. The provision for drilling was tied to the tax bill which passed by 50 votes, not the usual 60 required. There is no public mandate to drill.
3. Native Americans rely on ANWR for food and their cultural practices
4. The National Petroleum Reserve (again, another reserve set aside for times of crisis- which we are not in) generated only \$1M on less than 1% of the acreage. There is no demand.
5. Estimates on revenues to the US Treasury have been estimated at \$1B over 10 years. Historical lease data suggest this number is actually closer to \$50M (5% of the estimate put forward in the rider).

The assault on the refuge must stop. It's unacceptable that a protected wilderness is once again open for development, and that this has to be revisited again and again.

Thank you for your consideration of the above commentary.

Sincerely,

Connie Holloway

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