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[EXTERNAL] Drilling in the Wildlife Refuge

1 message

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To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Fri, May 4, 2018 at 1:58 PM

Dear Bureau of Land Management and Project Committee,

I am writing to implore you to develop other plans for oil and gas development, outside the Arctic Wildlife Refuge.

Here in BC, we have just witnessed the extinction of the last southwestern caribou herds in the lower 48 states and western Canada due to mismanagement by BC over oil and gas development, road development, and unsustainable recreation. And yet we are considered the best in the world for forest management!!

The Arctic Refuge is one of the last places on earth where the caribou can survive and thrive, and along with them many other species, like musk ox and polar bear, some of which are endangered by climate change. They need space, they roam over such large distances, they do not stay in one small area, and interrupting their patterns is deadly for them, especially as they face other stressors, such as changing weather patterns.

This is the main problem for humans - we control so much of the land, yet we do not plan our actions on it collectively, nor do we often value the lives of other species as much as our economies.

But they DO matter, and as they have no voice, those of us who care about the precious, fragile beauty of this planet that we are busy developing for its resources have to speak for them.

The drilling plans will take place in the most sensitive area for the caribou - their calving grounds. You cannot do this resource extraction without massively disturbing this crucial location with road development, seismic vibrations, noise, lights, pollution, and other side effects of resource extraction.

Furthermore, oil and gas are being replaced by renewable energy resources, and these projects will be redundant in a very short time. You won't even need these resources! You will spend billions only to have products you can't sell and stranded assets that served to do nothing but destroy one of the last true refuges for wildlife on earth.

The decision not to drill requires you to stand up for the environment, for the long term, for our children and grandchildren, and for the knowledge that, once these creatures are gone, they are lost forever. They have no choice where to live, but Alaska can develop other sources of revenue. Use your imaginations! Please!

We are facing extinction of species all over the world. Our children will never see them if we do not take care of them. You hold their fate in your hands.

You will be remembered for your decisions. Please continue to protect the Arctic Wildlife Refuge.

Best regards,
Deborah

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