



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] scoping comment re: Notice of Intent to implement oil and gas leasing in Arctic Refuge1 message

Juliette Harding <oeeyharding@gmail.com>

Sun, Jun 17, 2018 at 9:34 AM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Dear Ms. Hayes and the BLM,

I strongly oppose opening the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge to oil and gas leasing. By rushing to open this land to destructive oil drilling, the Trump administration is blatantly prioritizing profits over people, and disregarding tribal sovereignty for the sake of corporate greed.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of America's last truly wild places, and the coastal plain is its biological heart -- home to the largest array of wildlife in the circumpolar north. Oil drilling would permanently destroy this sacred place.

Protecting the Refuge is also a matter of human rights for Alaska Native tribes like the Gwich'in, who consider the Refuge sacred and rely on the Porcupine Caribou herd for over 80% of their diet. Oil exploration would impact the birth rates and migration patterns of the caribou, which would threaten the tribe's food sources and way of life.

Allowing drilling in the Arctic Refuge would also worsen climate pollution, harming communities already bearing the brunt of the changing climate as they are forced to adapt to rising seas, melting ice, and changing migration patterns. The Arctic Refuge is a symbol of what we want for our future -- the preservation of a way of life, climate justice and wild places for future generations. I urge you to protect it from drilling at all costs.

Sincerely,

Juliette Harding
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