



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Comments on the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska

1 message

Sonia Joseph <sjoseph8@yahoo.com>

Tue, May 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM

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

Dear Ms. Hayes,

I am writing to express my opposition to any oil and gas activities on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Oil and gas activities on the Coastal Plain are an affront to the Gwich'in Nation's human rights and way of life. The Coastal Plain is vitally important to the Gwich'in People because of its importance as the birthing and nursing grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd. The Porcupine Caribou Herd has provided vital sustenance for the Gwich'in People for thousands of years. Oil and gas activities are a threat to the Gwich'in physical, spiritual and cultural survival.

I am particularly concerned about the following areas and impacts that oil and gas activities would have on the Arctic Refuge:

- Loss of habitat for caribou and other wildlife
- Water Pollution
- Destruction of a federally recognized refuge: the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- Species destruction
- impact to humans-- Human Rights Violations!!
- Contribution to climate change if drilling proceeds

I am concerned about these issues because: What will come of the future for people who live and rely on the land in the Arctic Refuge? How can the "United" States of American not take into account the Gwich'in people and their rights? Will drilling and extracting oil and gas secure this country?? What about the impacts to the water, caribou herd and 100s of bird species that rely on the refuge?

If these issues are not addressed, I am worried that:

The lives and livelihood of the Gwich'in people will be destroyed.

There's already been significant declines in animal populations in the Refuge, we have a responsibility to uphold our natural lands.

This will exacerbate climate change and will not lead to security in the U.S.

Sincerely,

Sonia Joshi
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