



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Opposing Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program**1 message

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**Meg Hughes** <margarethughes@gmail.com>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 7:44 PM

Hello,

I am writing to convey my disappointment and disgust that the Bureau of Land Management is even considering implementing a petroleum leasing program within the boundaries of a National Wildlife Refuge.

Taken directly from the mission statement of the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the purpose of the national wildlife refuge system is in place for the "conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."

How, then, is the possibility of leasing these area, some of the last, most pristine wild areas in the United States, in line with the goals of preserving resources for the benefit of future generations of Americans? By opening these areas up to petroleum exploration, the Bureau of Land Management defies the very existence of these refuges, turning them from havens for wildlife found nowhere else into a commercialized resource extraction zone. What's worse, petroleum operations in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would be far from the scrutiny of the public eye, allowing oil and gas companies the opportunity to operate unchecked by public outcry.

As a citizen of the United States, I demand that you respect the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge system and preserve the integrity of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as an important asset to all Americans, present and future.

Sincerely,

Margaret Hughes  
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[Barrington, RI 02806](#)