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[EXTERNAL] Comment on ANWR EIS

1 message

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To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

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I wish to speak in opposition to any oil and gas leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). This is an area set aside for wildlife and should remain as such. Any EIS will be based on guess work when it comes to how the caribou and other animals will react because there are no similar projects to compare with. For that reason alone it could not be accurate. This is a time to invoke the precautionary principle and simply not take the risk of irreversible destruction. Since an EIS cannot accurately predict what will happen to the caribou it is impossible to know the impact that development will have. There are instances of caribou completely leaving an area in eastern Canada because of mining activity and all the accompanying noise and disruption. Those instances need to be thoroughly researched rather than just using Prudhoe Bay for comparison where the coastal plain is much wider.

There is no infrastructure in the area to support this activity should it be allowed to go forward and there are already other projects in progress in Alaska that will take all the available man-power that the State has on hand to regulate development. Earlier this month Conoco Phillips announced plans for a new processing facility in the NPR-A; they are far ahead of any kind of development in ANWR and will need the same resources. We cannot afford to have multiple new projects going on in the Arctic all impacting the environment at once. If we do we will be producing too much oil and prices will fall again and we will be unable to fund the regulatory process.

We know that continuing to burn fossil fuels will further irreversibly damage our environment and that those impacts will be felt in the Arctic before they are felt anywhere else. While we cannot stop using oil all at once we can begin to move in that direction by not opening more areas to development. Let Conoco move forward with its plans with the understanding that this new development will be the last and we use that time to wean ourselves off oil dependency while at the same time leaving the Refuge in tact and undamaged.

Thank you for your consideration of this comment.

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