



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Coastal Plain EIS**

1 message

**Stephanie Johnson** <sjohnson.aquiaec@gmail.com>

Fri, Jun 15, 2018 at 10:09 AM

To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov

Hello Nicole Hayes,

I understand you are the project manager and point of contact for the EIS concerning oil and gas leasing within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain.

I strongly disapprove of leasing this sensitive, irreplaceable area for oil and gas drilling. I spent seven years working in Northern Alaska and know these areas have been protected from such activity for many good reasons. They are ecosystems with very little room for error. Damage to these areas persists for decades, maybe longer. It's possible that they might not recover in our lifetimes. The oil and gas exploration does not consider the lasting effects of its footprint. It is not careful or cognizant of downstream effects. This industry has shown itself to be irresponsible over and over with regard to the environment. They will get away with as little safeguard as possible, because for them it's all about money.

Somethings are more valuable than money. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain is on of these. This is a special place on the planet and we should continue to protect it. The true and total value of this region needs to be considered. We so often make the mistake of skipping a true accounting of value, then down the road we wonder what happened to our natural systems. True value is not limited to how much oil or gas a region can produce.

What is really ironic here is the oil and gas industry does not need these leases. There is enough oil production already. These powerful corporations should instead be looking at renewable ways to provide energy and fuel for humanity into the future. Oil and gas are not our future. There is no incentive for these corporations to explore sustainable alternatives if they can instead tap into yet more leases of fragile public land. We need to quit looking behind and start looking ahead.

Nicole, you are charged with a solemn responsibility. I know there must be an enormous amount of pressure on you. But you responsible for this EIS. You are responsible. Never waiver in doing what is right.

May you have the strength and courage.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Johnson*

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