



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

**[EXTERNAL] Comment on Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing EIS**

1 message

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

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 10:37 PM

In Brief: DON'T

poetic:

"Mad-eyed from stating the obvious,  
Not proclaiming our fall but begging us  
In God's name to have self-pity...  
Ask us, prophet, how we shall call  
Our natures forth when that live tongue is all  
Dispelled, that glass obscured or broken..."  
- from "Advice to a Prophet" by Richard Wilbur

In long:

There are many facts I could present demonstrating this or that danger and fallacy of drilling in ANWR. I could lay out the ecology at risk, expose the grease-handed greed of oil companies, detail the accelerating suicide of climate change. I could harp about the effects of dispersed development and habitat fragmentation which are belied by statistics of footprint areas. But these facts are freely available to all and I hold an expectation that you as an agency will review them.

But it's also a fact that if facts and logic carried this discussion, this discussion wouldn't be happening, because America's leaders would be supporting cutting-edge development of renewable energy sources.

So instead I'll talk about some deeper reasons why this proposed action is wrong. First, I add my voice to that of the Gwich'in. It's their land, stolen from them in the first place, and how in the name of anything ethical or God-like can you justify yet another colonial rape of their land and culture? Good God are we to rejoice at being monsters?

Second, I staunchly believe that we must do everything we can to defend our hearts and our country from the cancerous thought that might makes right. Just because we can step on a ladybug, murder our neighbor, or bomb Russia, does not mean that we should.

Finally, and ultimately, when we cease to respect the world around us -- or indeed even to notice that there is a world around us, distinct from our own selves -- we immediately begin to die inside. For how can a life have meaning, how can it be lived well, in a world depopulated of anything to which we owe allegiance or to which we can proudly claim belonging? We can no more cut out our own liver and sell it and claim better health than we can drill our way to a better future, and for exactly the same reasons.

Impacts of drilling in ANWR that would be unacceptable:

- 1.) The release of any additional greenhouse gas into the atmosphere
- 2.) Raising the heart rate or stress hormones of a single pregnant caribou.
- 3.) The crushing of a single tundra flower without prayers of gratitude and apology.
- 4.) A single dollar in profit being made by any company, group, corporation etc which benefits in whole or part from the extraction of fossil fuel resources.
- 5.) The hardening, even by less than a scintilla, of a soul.

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