



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

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**[EXTERNAL] NO oil and gas drilling or further development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**1 message

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**Catherine Kappel** <katanjali@everyactioncustom.com>

Thu, Apr 26, 2018 at 8:45 AM

Reply-To: katanjali@live.com

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

Dear Bureau of Land Management,

Under your watch the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is under its most serious threat yet. Because under the passage of the tax bill in late 2017, the Arctic Refuge is no longer protected from oil and gas development. Therefore, it's no surprise that there is growing opposition from the public against your efforts to develop an oil and gas program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The outright failure of the Department of the Interior to closely examine the science and fully evaluate the impacts at every stage of energy development on the Refuge's wildlife, water, subsistence, and other values for which it was created should be a criminal offense! To make matter worse, the Trump administration has indicated an intent to expedite the review process and hold lease sales by next year. This rushed timeline will not allow for the full analysis required under the law and which is necessary to meet the Department's obligations to responsibly steward one of the crown jewels of the nation's National Wildlife Refuge System. Therefore, it is crystal clear that the you and the President care more about the profits of the oil and gas industries than the health and well-being of the people that you both swore to serve and protect.

How can both of you ignore that energy development raises a suite of environmental issues that forecasts permanent harm to the Arctic Refuge's fragile environment? Scars on the tundra from heavy seismic equipment will remain visible decades later. Nesting birds will be vulnerable to numerous, inevitable industrial oil spills and increased depredation.

For example, the Porcupine Caribou Herd will face potential population-level impacts from roads and pipelines displacing the herd from calving grounds on the narrow coastal plain. The long-term conservation of a holistic Arctic ecosystem in the U.S. will be significantly jeopardized by embarking on this oil and gas program in the Refuge.

These and other impacts must be evaluated for their effects that will extend far beyond the footprint of any physical development. The Refuge must remain a place in America's Arctic for birds and wildlife seeking refuge from the pressures of climate change and development. Furthermore, the Department must carefully collect the science and consider these issues, which clearly indicate why an oil and gas program does not belong in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

I urge you to to stop this looming catastrophe now. If you fail to act on the behalf of the health and safety of people, wildlife, plants and countless ecosystems, then you will ultimately be known as the Administrator of the Department of the Interior who was responsible for their destruction because of your unwillingness to protect the Arctic Wildlife Refuge.

Sincerely,  
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