



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

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**[EXTERNAL] My Thoughts about proposed drilling leases and permits within the Arctic National Wildlife Refugs**

1 message

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**Matt Kerschbaum** <cherrytree2@comcast.net>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Wed, Jun 13, 2018 at 6:33 PM

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter to you to strongly object to the US Department of the Interior granting new leases and permits to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling.

The ANWR is a national, even international treasure. It is an ecosystem with the both the size and function vital to many species of wildlife and other living things and natural processes. There is no substitute for this great swath of land that is truly one of America's great natural resources. That is the reason our Nation had great foresight and established this land as a National Wildlife Refuge. This Refuge provides essential habitat and the lifeblood for both resident northern species and migratory species that depend on ANWR during part of their life cycles.

Oil as well is also one of America's natural resources. It is a vital resource that we currently need, but it is a resource that we should work to replace because of its contribution to climate change. We currently have identified sources for production and supply of oil sufficient to provide the energy this country needs. We should at this time and without delay be working with haste and effort to find new, sustainable and low environmental impact sources of energy for industry and transportation and the other human activities vital to America.

The gains of drilling oil from the ANWR cannot offset the potential damages that may, no certainly will occur in time during the work of construction and subsequent extraction of oil. In the early stages of oil drilling there will be construction activities with adverse impacts to wildlife and their habitat. If oil is found, extracted and pumped through and from ANWR there will be damages from spills even though we use the highest levels of technology available to us and the greatest of care. Sadly this has been documented over and over again in the form of minor and major spills that have occurred throughout America's history of oil extraction and pumping. Two great and horrible examples come to mind - the Exxon Valdez oil spill that occurred in Prince William Sound Alaska, and the British Petroleum Gulf of Mexico oil spill that impacted the waters and coasts of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. Both of these spills occurred even with and in spite of the assurances from the responsible companies that all was safe and that all care would be taken to prevent the spill. It was not possible even using modern technologies to prevent these spills and in spite of heroic cleanup efforts, the environmental effects remain long after the actual spills themselves. Now some time has past since these events and it is so easy for us humans to forget, but the adverse impacts to wildlife and habitat remain. We must not drill oil in ANWR and create the potential to suffer the same fate in these pristine lands.

So I ask United States of America, Department of the Interior decision makers - please review our Nation's need for oil from the ANWR, which is not essential to our Nation's well being, against the certain and damaging environmental impacts to an invaluable ANWR ecosystem that will occur if the oil drilling, extraction and pumping is allowed. Thank you for your consideration of the facts, reasoning, and wise judgement which I believe should guide you to decide in favor of the ANWR ecosystem and the environment and not permit drilling for oil there.

With thanks:

Matthias A. Kerschbaum  
1801 9th Street  
Anacortes, Washington 98221

360.293.0773