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**[EXTERNAL] public comment re: ANWR Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program**1 message

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Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 11:01 PM

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

Comment on: DOI-BLM-AK-0000-2018-0002-EIS (Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing EIS)

Make America Great? What does that mean?

**1. Blue Ribbon Public Lands**

The U.S. public lands systems are the envy of many nations in the world. Our national parks and refuges are **winners!** I have had colleagues from other nations visit national parks, refuges and monuments in our nation to learn about their planning and management, then return to their home nations to attempt to replicate the model.

Our national lands are a legacy that defines our national spirit. Early supporters were successful capitalists and industrialists who recognized that the independent spirit is a hallmark of the American character. They recognized that we have the capacity to preserve landmark landscapes as places of respite and restoration for hard-working Americans.

Why should drilling **not** happen in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge? ANWR contains one of the most fragile and ecologically sensitive ecosystems in the world. Its environment is extremely vulnerable to long-lasting disturbance because the harsh climate and short growing seasons provide little time for species to recover. The processes of seismic and drilling exploration, development, and transportation of oil and gas will be highly destructive in the ANWR.

**2. American Ingenuity and Creativity**

As a nation we need to redirect the creativity and hard work of Americans to working on renewable resources or conservation of existing resources. Not weaning ourselves from fossil fuels will make the U.S. a **loser** in the world economy.

Not only is this a question of national reputation, but the benefits gained from oil and gas capture do not pencil out in a business sense.

It is claimed that exploration and drilling will create 1,000s of jobs. First, considering automation of the oil industry I question this number.

Second, more importantly, how long will those jobs exist? In 2016, the United States consumed a total of 7.21 billion barrels of petroleum products. In 1998, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) examined ANWR's coastal plain, specifically Area 1002, to estimate the amount of technically recoverable oil. Based on the geology, the USGS projected that there could be anywhere from 5.7 billion to 16 billion barrels of oil (average = 10.4 billion barrels).

Thus, ANWR drilling might provide about 2 years of U.S. oil supply. Thus, the jobs and fuel supply gains will be shortlived. I do not support a short term, destructive fix when long term action is needed.

**3. In Summary:**

Do not allow oil exploration, drilling, development, and transportation of oil and gas in ANWR.

Do not streamline or bypass any environmental review that is legally mandated for any commercial or non-conservation activity in a wildlife refuge.

Do preserve the public lands legacy of the United States, a winning program that other nations admire and aspire to copy.