



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] ANWR drilling

1 message

Annie Kellner <akellner@rams.colostate.edu>

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 9:24 PM

Reply-To: annie.kellner@colostate.edu

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

To Whom It May Concern,

I vehemently oppose opening ANWR for drilling. ANWR is one of the last great wildernesses on the planet, and is irreplaceable. The ~200 animal species that call ANWR their home are already under great stress due to climatic warming, which is occurring 2x faster in the Arctic than anywhere else. 200,000 caribou calve in ANWR, polar bears in the declining Southern Beaufort population den in ANWR more than anywhere else on the Alaskan coast, and all may be disrupted, displaced, or otherwise adversely impacted by oil and gas exploration and infrastructure. Survival and reproduction of endangered species are at risk. An oil spill would be catastrophic due to the extremely fragile nature of the Arctic environment, and the difficulty cleaning up a spill in severe Arctic conditions.

I understand that people have a right to make a living, but in the case of ANWR, the cost-benefit analysis simply does not make sense. Gas prices are rising, but are unlikely to rise high enough for long enough to warrant the risks involved in Arctic drilling. Shell Oil recently eliminated their Arctic program after spending billions and finding nothing. It is no longer believed that a large pool of oil sits beneath ANWR; what is there is more likely in smaller pockets that will be difficult to find. Several experimental wells have proven dry. Natural gas is plentiful in the lower 48. Renewable energy is the future. Americans need to focus on technological innovations that will lead to greater competitiveness in global markets for renewable energy, not look backwards to fossil fuels, particularly when the crown jewel of American wilderness is at stake.

We are at a tipping point and can choose to preserve this wilderness for generations of humans and animals to come, or we can destroy it for the short-term, minor gain for a few.

Thank you,

Annie Kellner, M.Sc.

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