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[EXTERNAL] Drilling Oil on the Arctic NWR1 message

Matt Kerschbaum <cherrytree2@comcast.net>

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To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter to you to strongly object to opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to the drilling of oil.

The ANWR is a national, even international treasure. It is an ecosystem with the both the size and function that is 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 one of America's great natural resources. This land is essential habitat and the lifeblood for both resident northern species and migratory species that depend on ANWR during part of their life cycle.

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 sufficient 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 other functions vital to America.

But the gains of drilling oil from the ANWR cannot offset the potential damages that may, no certainly will over time during the work of construction and extraction of oil. During extraction of oil there will be high impact construction activities with adverse impacts to wildlife and their habitat. If oil is found and pumped through and from ANWR will be damages through spills even though we use the highest levels of technology available to us. Sadly this has been documented over and over again in the form of minor and major spills that have occurred throughout our America's history of oil extraction and pumping. Two great examples 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 with modern technology to prevent these spills and in spite of heroic cleanup efforts, the environmental effects remain long after the spills. Now time has past since these events and it is so easy for us humans to forget, but the impacts remain. We must not drill oil in ANWR and have the potential to suffer the same fate here.

So I ask United States of America, Bureau of Land Management decision makers - please review our need for oil from the ANWR which in itself is not essential to our nation's well being, against the certain and damaging environmental impacts to an invaluable Arctic Ecosystem that will occur if the oil drilling, extraction and pumping is allowed within the ANWR. Thank you for your consideration, wise judgement which I believe will guide you to make a decision and recommendation in favor of the ANWR ecosystem and the environment.

With thanks:

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