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**[EXTERNAL] Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Drilling EIS--public comment AGAINST going forward**

1 message

Jayne Marek &lt;jemarek1@sbcglobal.net&gt;

Sun, Jun 10, 2018 at 5:35 PM

Reply-To: Jayne Marek &lt;jemarek1@sbcglobal.net&gt;

To: "blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov" &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov&gt;, "mnhayes@blm.gov" &lt;mnhayes@blm.gov&gt;

Nicole Hayes  
Coastal Plain Project Manager

Dear Ms. Hayes and Project Staff,

As a concerned citizen, I strongly urge you to resist planning to lease drilling rights in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge must not be damaged in any way. Leasing and drilling will certainly cause extensive, long-term damage to wildlife, watersheds, air, and the entire fragile ecosystem. Aerial photographs show plenty of damage from prior "development" of such lands, and drilling, pumping, and shipping of oil and gas presents serious hazards to other ecosystems.

Have we learned nothing from the lingering effects of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill--which has never been effectively cleaned up and which has killed countless animals, birds, and plants? With increased traffic, another accident or spill is inevitable--they occur regularly around the world, regrettably. When such a problem occurs, the entire western portion of North America will be impacted through a cascade of linked environmental effects.

It is shameful that Sen. Lisa Murkowski has sneaked this proposal into process by putting it into a bill with a different intent (tax bill). Shameful, because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service studied the idea for years and in 2015 reported that any such drilling, shipping, etc. would be irreparably destructive. The land, and Indigenous rights as well, must not be subjected to any further harm.

We do not have many places left on earth that have not been polluted by human exploitation and waste. Reject the idea of leasing drilling rights in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Show leadership by abandoning those plans and doing the harder--but more sustainable--work of finding alternatives to oil and gas, alternate means of employment and income for Alaskans and other concerned peoples.

Thank you.

Yours,

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