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[EXTERNAL] Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS comment1 message

Erin Hutchison-Martin <erinh683@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 18, 2018 at 5:43 PM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my stance against the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

I submit that is ultimately not needed to supplement our country's energy consumption and unnecessarily risks an environmentally sensitive and culturally important region in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

During my work as an environmental scientist I saw firsthand the damage petrochemicals can do to groundwater and soil. Additionally, due to microbial corrosion of pipelines and other storage basins it is not a matter of if, but when the nearby groundwater and soil will be affected by leaks and major ruptures. This type of contamination is expensive and time consuming to clean up.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a very poor choice for high impact land uses, such as drilling and transporting petrochemicals because of proximity to sensitive coastal habitats and unique cultural sites. Even a minor spill or leak would be catastrophic to the ecology and the indigenous people of this region.

Please consider the negative environmental and health impacts of Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program as you make your decision.

Thank you for your time,

Erin Hutchison Martin