



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

1 message

Jonathan McGarrity <jayteemcgarrity@gmail.com>

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 6:54 PM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to advocate for the continued protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I did not grow up in Alaska but have had the pleasure to visit some of its wild places. The continued existence of these wild places make me proud to be an American, proud that we have made the choice to protect something special and irreplaceable. These wild places are more precious than the consumables they contain; their value dwarfs any economic gain we can extract from them. I am so disappointed by the decision to open one of these spaces to drilling for oil and gas. I plan to make a trip to the Coastal Plain this summer to experience one of the wonders of the world. I am a Nurse and soon to be a Nurse Anesthetist. I plan to move to Alaska when I finish my training to enjoy places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It is sad to consider that this pristine wilderness may be tarnished by short-sighted attempts at economic gain. It is our duty to protect such a space; to allow it to thrive, undisturbed. This plan will forever change this wilderness for the worse while providing a short-term boon for a very few. We must protect this place for the Gwi'chin, for all Alaskans, for all Americans - it is a sacred place and its protection is one of the most democratic things we can do.

Please reconsider the decision to implement an oil and gas leasing program in the Coastal Plain. I want my children to be blessed to see the sacred places of Alaska as I have been.

Thank you for your time,
Jonathan McGarrity