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[EXTERNAL] Artic Refuge Public Comment Period1 message

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To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

I have several specific concerns about the proposed oil and gas development leases in the Artic National Wildlife Refuge. For these reasons, I think the leasing should not be allowed to go forward.

First there is a strong chance for degradation of freshwater resources. As climate changes worsens, freshwater resources, including the fresh water itself, will become increasingly important. Without potable water sources, the animals that depend on them will die off or leave, and communities that depend on them may be forced to relocate, even in best-case scenarios.

Second, leasing land to private corporations will impede public access to the park. The park was established with the goal that the public could visit and appreciate undeveloped natural landscape. Leases and development directly contravene the aims of having a park in the first place, with respect to both preservation of natural landscape and public enjoyment and use of that landscape for recreation.

Third, leasing will impede subsistence communities ability to practice their chosen way of life, and thus violate their 1st and likely their 5th Amendment rights.

I have many other concerns with the impact of the proposed leases, including but not limited to: disturbance of sensitive species such as polar bear and caribou (the Porcupine Herd in particular), exacerbation of climate change from increased extraction of fossil fuels, and the public's right to profits made from resources extracted from government land.

For the above reasons, I believe that the proposed leases should not be granted and that development of land on the ANWR should not proceed.