



CoastalPlain\_EIS, BLM\_AK &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov&gt;

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**[EXTERNAL] AK Coastal Plain EIS Comments**

1 message

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**Jessica Metz** <jessicakmetz@gmail.com>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 11:12 AM

Hello,

I am writing to submit my comments stating that I oppose drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Coastal Plain.

As a born and raised Alaskan from Fairbanks, I understand the need for economic opportunities for urban and rural Alaskans. However, the risk of serious, irreparable damage to these unique areas of our state are too high. As a child I witnessed the Exxon Valdez oil spill and the damage it caused to the ecosystem of Prince William Sound and the coastal fishing communities. This area of Alaska was relatively "accessible" compared to the Arctic regions of the state but it didn't help with the oil recovery process. To think that a serious spill or environmental disaster could be contained in a landscape that is primarily made up of wetlands is simply wishful thinking.

Alaskans need economic opportunities but we will not trade our most important lands for short-term economic gains. I stand with the Gwich'in people and support their efforts to protect their homeland and traditional way of life dependent on the caribou. Opening ANWR and the Coastal Plain threatens the calving and migratory lands of the caribou herds and subsequently threatens Gwich'in heritage. Any project that threatens Alaskans is a project I cannot support.

I oppose drilling in ANWR and the Coastal Plain.

Sincerely,

Jessica Metz