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**[EXTERNAL] Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Oil and Gas Drilling**1 message

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John &lt;jgmensik@att.net&gt;

Mon, Jun 18, 2018 at 5:34 PM

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

Greetings,

I am writing to oppose opening any portion of the Arctic NWR to oil and gas drilling.

I would have liked to attend one of the public meetings, but none were anywhere close to where we reside.

Reviewing the work of so many who have come before us, and realizing the value of the refuge as both wildlife habitat and pristine wilderness, I believe it is one of the last places on earth we should be messing with.

The Porcupine herd of caribou that depend on portions of this vast land, particularly area 1002, is one of the few herds/populations across the continent of North America that has actually turned things around and their numbers are doing well as of recent surveys. So many others are in decline, often dramatic and rapid decline, that to risk any impact to the Porcupine herd is of great concern to me.

Further, though I am certainly no oil and natural gas expert, it seems to me that United States already increased production of oil, especially considering new methods/technologies, has reduced the need for additional new areas to be committed to drilling and pipelines. In addition, I would hope that conservation measures and alternative energy sources might help to further decrease our dependency on oil in the future.

It is for at least these reasons, along with my respect and value for natural environments, that I oppose any future drilling activity in our Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which after all belongs to all of the citizens of the United States. Whether I ever get to witness the refuge myself or not, just knowing there is at least one vast natural land base where natural processes and wildlife still flourish is most important to me and my mental well-being.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments!

John G. Mensik

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10