



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Comment for NOI document

1 message

Pat Momich <pmomich@gmail.com>
To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Sun, Jun 10, 2018 at 9:26 PM

Dear BLM:

We would like to express our distress at the proposal to reopen the Arctic Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling. The Arctic Refuge is a priceless natural treasure and its coastal plain, where drilling would occur, is the biological heart of the Refuge. The infrastructure, rigs, pipelines, roads, and machinery required in industrial-scale drilling operations would put the 37 species of land mammals, eight marine mammals, 42 fish species, and more than 200 migratory bird species within the Refuge at extreme risk of habitat destruction. It is here where caribou, polar bears, migratory birds, and many other species live and raise their young. It's also considered the "Sacred Place Where Life Begins" to the native Gwich'in people who have lived here for generations. They have stated that oil drilling would threaten their way of life.

There's simply no reason to be drilling for more oil. Oil prices are constantly fluctuating. The Congressional Budget Office has noted that at current low oil prices, drilling in the Arctic Refuge is not an effective strategy for increasing revenues. And there's such great risk of sensitive habitat damage and spills. Remember the Exxon Valdez and the Deepwater Horizon disasters to name two tragic spills. Our efforts should be going into CLEAN, renewable energy sources instead.

Opening the pristine, wild lands of the Refuge is a short-sighted, unnecessary proposal. A Center for American Progress analysis finds that offering oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is likely to yield no more than \$37.5 million in revenue for the U.S. Treasury over the next 10 years—far short of the \$1 billion to \$1.8 billion that drilling proponents claim could be raised. Arctic drilling is risky and problematic for the industry. Royal Dutch Shell abandoned its oil exploration after spending about \$7 billion.

The enormous threat to vulnerable wildlife, invaluable habitat, and the resources needed by the Gwich'in people is unjustified. Please, please find it unacceptable to open the Refuge to any oil drilling or exploration. Our constitution says "We the People." You're supposed to be serving the people, not the corporations and their profits! Leave the Arctic Wildlife Refuge alone.

Thank you.

Bob & Pat Momich