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[EXTERNAL] Comments in support of ANWR Area 1002 Coastal Plain lease sale1 message

wpnason <wpnason@aol.com>

Wed, May 30, 2018 at 2:59 PM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

I am commenting in support of this lease sale.

My name is Wesley Nason and I have been resident in Alaska since 1973 and have worked in pipeline and facility construction on the North Slope within existing oilfields.

Anyone who has worked on the North Slope, or visited the oil and gas facilities there, knows the work has been done in an environmentally friendly manner. All species of waterfowl live and nest in the lakes and ponds scattered through the oilfields and return year after year to lay their eggs and raise their young.

The Central Arctic Caribou Herd has thrived throughout the life of the oilfields and the argument that development is a threat to caribou is a hollow one without foundation in fact. Caribou and other wildlife have cycles of overpopulation and crash without regard to any development in the area, including the Porcupine Herd.

Reasons for supporting this lease sale include:

- The area considered for leasing was specifically set-aside in ANILCA for future oil and gas development.
- International agencies forecast that over 50% of the globe's energy will still come from traditional sources of oil and gas in the next three decades.
- Industry has a strong track record of responsible development, and has continued to make strides to reduce its footprint.
- The lease sale is the first step in a very long process. Lease sales do not guarantee development.
- Possible discoveries and development of oil in this lease area could extend the life of the Trans Alaska Pipeline and feed the tax coffers in Washington and Juneau for decades.

Very truly yours,
Wesley Nason
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