



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] NAM Comments on Coastal Plain EIS Scoping

2 messages

Rachel Jones <RJones@nam.org>

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 1:18 PM

To: "blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov" <blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov>

Good afternoon,

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Notice of Intent to Prepare and Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska. Our comments are attached.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if we may be of further assistance.

Thanks,

Rachel

Rachel Jones**National Association of Manufacturers**

Senior Director, Energy and Resources Policy

E-mail: rjones@nam.org

Direct: (202) 637-3175

Mobile: (804) 380-6542

[NAM Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)**NAM_Coastal_Plain_EIS_Scoping.pdf**

99K

Rachel Jones <RJones@nam.org>

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 1:24 PM

6/20/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - [EXTERNAL] NAM Comments on Coastal Plain EIS Scoping

To: "blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov" <blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov>

Cc: "gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov" <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>, "joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov" <joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov>, "katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov" <katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, "kbenedetto@blm.gov" <kbenedetto@blm.gov>, "bsteed@blm.gov" <bsteed@blm.gov>, Ross Eisenberg <REisenberg@nam.org>, Alexandra Williams <AWilliams@nam.org>

[Quoted text hidden]



NAM_Coastal_Plain_EIS_Scoping.pdf

99K

Ross E. Eisenberg

Vice President

Energy & Resources Policy

June 19, 2018

Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office
222 West 7th Avenue #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

RE: Comments on Notice of Intent to Prepare and Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska (83 CFR 17562, April 20, 2018)

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Notice of Intent to Prepare and Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska.

It is time to energize our future. The United States has a mix of energy resources and innovative technologies unmatched by any other nation in the world. Renewable sources are growing quickly and diversifying the nation's energy portfolio; our fleet of nuclear power plants cleanly and efficiently produce a substantial portion of the nation's electricity; we have abundant supplies of coal, natural gas and oil; and advances in energy efficiency continue to save money. However, there is no one-size-fits-all answer; to remain competitive in a global economy we need access to all kinds of energy—and that includes sharing the riches in the Arctic.

Manufacturers use one-third of the energy consumed in this country and depend on a secure, affordable, reliable mix of energy resources to remain competitive. Access to and responsible development of our oil and natural gas resources is therefore vitally important. The Arctic holds particular promise. The NAM supports expanded access to the Coastal Plain and urges the BLM to move toward authorization of a plan to safely open leasing areas. Manufacturers further recommend that the BLM include more than the minimum number of lease sales and not prematurely impose restrictions in the final program. The future of a strong manufacturing sector is inextricably linked to energy access.

Over the past decade, the United States has become the largest oil and natural gas producer in the world, benefitting consumers across the country. New technologies to produce oil and gas are fueling a manufacturing comeback, particularly in energy-intensive sectors, which use these fuels for energy and as feedstocks for a wide range of industrial and consumer products. Energy resources can and should be developed responsibly, but with much of our energy resources unavailable for development or seismic analysis, America could clearly be producing much more.

Although onshore oil and gas production has surged in recent years, the vast majority of this new activity has occurred on private lands, while energy exploration on federal lands has

waned significantly. As a result, energy production continues to be artificially limited, reducing manufacturers' potential competitive advantage. The federal government owns approximately 640 million acres, or roughly 28 percent of the land, in the United States. This level holds a substantial amount of our nation's energy supply. Opening the Coastal Plain is a step in the right direction. Energy security and global competitiveness demand energy diversity and scientific exploration.

The area comprising the Coastal Plain includes approximately 1.6 million acres set aside for energy production within the much larger 19.3 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The U.S. Geological Society estimated that the Coastal Plain contains between 5.7 and 16.0 billion barrels of technically recoverable oil.¹ As a result of the promise of these untapped energy supplies, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 required the BLM to hold not fewer than two lease sales area-wide. Manufacturers support safe, responsible evaluation, leasing and drilling activities in the Coastal Plain, which would generate lower energy and feedstock costs and make manufacturers more competitive. The economic impacts on the supply chain and customer chain are substantial and would impact virtually every state in the country.

As the innovators, inventors, entrepreneurs and disruptors who are improving lives and transforming the world, we call on you to support a pro-growth energy program. Our energy renaissance has put millions of Americans to work and created countless new opportunities for manufacturers. Developing additional oil and natural gas resources will create jobs, grow our economy, and increase American energy security. The safe exploration and development of promising areas can substantially lower our nation's energy vulnerability with minimal environmental impact. Fair access to energy is essential to our economic prosperity and our ability to compete globally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ross Eisenberg".

Ross Eisenberg
Vice President
Energy and Resources Policy

¹ <https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/fs-0028-01/fs-0028-01.htm> (last viewed on June 18, 2018).