



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] comments on proposed oil & gas leasing in ANWR1 message

Alan and Linda <aandlmurray@gmail.com>

Tue, Jun 5, 2018 at 6:09 PM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

June 6, 2018

Dear Bureau of Land Management:

We are writing in opposition to the proposed opening of the Alaskan Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas drilling leases.

The ANWR area has been extensively studied for many years. In 2015 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with extensive input from scientists, biologists and the public concluded that roads, infrastructure, and probable spills from drilling in ANWR would cause serious irreversible damage to this sensitive and pristine area. The coastal plain where drilling would occur is a critical wildlife area for caribou, polar bears, over 200 species of migratory birds and other animals.

Currently the oil and gas industry have a huge surplus of oil and gas leases and permits. Less than half of federal areas already under lease are currently being used. Leasing in the ANWR is absolutely unnecessary.

Further, the opening of ANWR for leasing was stuck into last year's tax package which was an inappropriate place and received little review. The current comment period on proposed leasing in ANWR is also very short and rushed. We're curious as to why there is such a hurry in light of the fact there is a surplus of leases elsewhere.

In short, there is no need to open this unique and pristine national wildlife refuge for leasing. We oppose opening the ANWR for leasing and ask that your Bureau will do the same. Please deny the issuance of any leases for oil and gas within ANWR.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Linda & Alan Murray