



CoastalPlain\_EIS, BLM\_AK &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov&gt;

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**[EXTERNAL] Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**

1 message

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**Brian Okonek** <brianokonek@gmail.com>

Sat, Jun 16, 2018 at 6:24 PM

To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Dear BLM representatives,

I am opposed to oil exploration and drilling and the infrastructure needed to support the obtaining and shipping of oil from within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I have lived in Alaska for over 50 years. I have had the incredible good fortune to hike in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on numerous occasions. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was created to protect the unique habitat of the Arctic coastal plain, the Brooks Range and river valleys on the south side of the mountains of northeastern Alaska. The wilderness that the refuge encompasses includes the critical calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd on the coastal plain. Climate change has eroded the sea ice that Polar bears depend on for both hunting seals and denning to give birth to their cubs. Bears are being forced by the lack of ice to spend more time on the coastal plain both in summer and for denning in the winter. An industrial oil complex would have serious negative impacts on the quality of habitat of the coastal plain for supporting caribou, Polar bears and other species that utilize this Arctic region. Wilderness is an important resource for humanity. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge includes some of the finest, truly intact wilderness in the world. It is in the best interest of future generations to protect this region from development. Do not allow oil exploration or development within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Sincerely,

Brian Okonek  
Talkeetna, Alaska