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## [EXTERNAL] COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM EIS SCOPING COMMENTS

1 message

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

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- The potential impacts of oil and gas development to resources such as water, air, fish and wildlife, subsistence resources, caribou migration, culture, community health, recreation, wilderness, climate change, and more would be irreversible, potentially devastating, and absolutely must be considered holistically and in context. Climate change and verifiable science as to its causes and potential impacts cannot be overlooked, sidestepped, or otherwise diminished in this process.
- The EIS should include scientific studies AND Indigenous traditional science. The indigenous peoples of this area have inhabited these lands since time immemorial, and their understandings of these places and natural forces cannot be taken for granted.
- Translation in Gwichin and Inupiaq is necessary. The EIS and all related documents should be understandable to ALL, especially those most impacted. All meetings should also have translators present. Meetings should not be limited to arbitrary time limits, but rather take as long as necessary, in the cultural context, to address the issues and questions of those present, and give everyone an opportunity to be meaningfully heard.
- Extend the commenting period 120 days, Alaskans and the rest of the country do not have adequate time to comment. The people most immediately impacted by the proposal are disproportionately disconnected from high-speed internet and access to information.
- More public hearings are necessary. The Arctic Refuge is a national treasure, all U.S. citizens should have the opportunity to give public comments. Public hearing should be held extensively both in Alaskan communities and communities in the lower 48.
- International laws and public process should be followed. Development in the Refuge will have impacts on Canadian residents, they too should have the opportunity to voice their concerns. The Agency must do all it can to ensure the rights of Canada and her citizens are not infringed through this NEPA process

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