



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Possible Oil & Gas exploration in ANWR1 message

Bernd Bassalleck <bossek@unm.edu>

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

Dear Secretary Zinke,

My name is Bernd Bassalleck, and I care about what happens

in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge because after a recent

extensive 4-week trip through various parts of Alaska I consider the idea of oil & gas exploration in the coastal plains of ANWR a disastrous idea, and a crime against the generations of our children and grandchildren.

ANWR is such a unique wildlife refuge and a biosphere jewel that it must be protected at all cost for the future of mankind. There is simply nothing comparable on this planet, exemplified by the wisdom of the people who initially set it up.

It is also abundantly clear to me that our energy needs can be satisfied via other, more appropriate means, that are also less detrimental to the environment. The risk of drilling in those coastal plains is simply unacceptably high, and can't be justified by any perceived need or economic interest.

There are some places drilling doesn't belong, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of those places. Oil and gas activities should not be allowed on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge. This is the single most destructive attack on the wilderness, wildlife, and subsistence resources of a national wildlife refuge in modern history.

The Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is of cultural and natural value to all Americans, and especially to the Gwich'in people of Alaska and Canada. It provides denning habitat for threatened polar bears and the calving ground for the Porcupine Caribou Herd that sustains

Gwich'in and other indigenous people.

Oil and gas development will exacerbate climate change, which is already causing temperatures in the Arctic to rise at twice the rate of the rest of the country. We shouldn't continue to blindly lease public lands without considering the impacts to our climate.

Rushing to sell off one of our most treasured public lands is irresponsible and reckless. The administration needs to comply with all the important legal protections that are in place to protect caribou, water, subsistence, and other sensitive resources of the Coastal Plain.

I oppose oil and gas activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and stand with the Gwich'in to demand that the coastal plain of the Refuge remain protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Bernd Bassalleck

Emeritus Professor of Physics