



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Opposed to drilling in the Arctic Refuge

1 message

leon lynch <llynch@acsalaska.net>
To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Thu, Jun 7, 2018 at 7:45 PM

Dear BLM,

I am writing in protest to the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development. I am a 40 plus year resident of Alaska and understand the importance of the oil economy to the state of Alaska. However, I believe there are some areas in the state that we need to leave alone, intact as a natural refuge to floral and fauna, in which the Gwichen people depend. We need to protect ANWR as well to demonstrate our international stewardship to the Canadian people who also depend on the Porcupine Caribou herd. We need to protect it for the unique ecological system that it is, for future generations to come.

It saddens me that so many politicians can only see the money making potential of such a unique resource. These politicians do not represent me. It is time for Alaska to diversify its economy and to find alternative energy sources. It is hard to quantify the economic benefits of leaving the refuge alone, but I know tourism provides a big economic boost to Alaska, and that potential needs to be considered. I will be floating a river in ANWR this summer, will be providing to the economy of an Alaskan commercial airline, my bush pilot, residents of Ft. Yukon, and many outdoor companies in Fairbanks. I am not the only one visiting ANWR this summer.

I came to Alaska after completing my biology degree in Oregon. I received an advanced degree in Natural Resources Management from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I have a deep understanding and perspective of the interconnections of natural systems, and how they could be disrupted by industrial development. Please do not drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It is a refuge that should be left for the wildlife and our future generations to come.

Sincerely,

Karen Post
Ester, Alaska