



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Arctic National Wildlife Refuge EIS**

1 message

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**Ross Pilling** <rpilling@conservedevelop.com>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Mon, Jun 18, 2018 at 6:15 AM

I write to express my deep concern to needlessly open up this Refuge for oil and gas exploration. This land is expressly intended for wildlife and the American people; not for oil company profits.

My family, including my voting age children may never visit the Refuge however they gain comfort knowing it is "their" land. It is a place of national interest that doesn't belong to Alaska. As U.S. citizens, we have every right to have a say about the future of the Refuge.

This is a rare chance to ensure America's greatest wilderness remains to protect the fish, wildlife and migratory birds that depend on it. Between The Arctic Refuge and the adjacent Arctic Ocean there is habitat for 700 kinds of plants, 200 species of birds, 47 mammal species and 42 fish species. No other protected area in the entire circumpolar north has such abundant and diverse wildlife.

With two adjacent Canadian National Parks, the Arctic Refuge ecosystem is the largest and wildest protected landscape in North America, affording unparalleled opportunities for those seeking the solace of undisturbed areas. Ecotourism dollars spent accessing and experiencing these areas will far exceed potential revenue achieved through the paltry sums that oil and gas lease payments produce to federal coffers.

There has been declining interest in Arctic Refuge oil exploration in the last decade as technology enabled oil companies to reach previously inaccessible reserves elsewhere. There is no compelling need for this oil.

Please register my displeasure over opening this Refuge to oil and gas leasing. It is an immoral and illegal act.

Ross Pilling

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