



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Drilling in the Arctic Refuge

1 message

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To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

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To the BLM Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing EIS,

Thank you for taking citizens comments.

As an Alaskan, I consider the Arctic Refuge a place owned by *all* Alaskans, and *all* citizens of the the United States. It has become a bargaining chip in a political give away by politicians benefiting from big oil contributions to their political campaigns. The Gwich'in, other Alaska Natives, and the American people have the most to loose with the political give away of their land. Oil development of that area greatly contributes to climate change and the the decimation of our environment for future generations.

I spent time in the 80's on the coastal refuge doing baseline nesting bird surveys. That area is extremely important habitat for nesting migratory birds, caribou, denning polar bears and other wildlife. Oil and gas drilling would destroy a fragile coastal ecosystem with it's massive infrastructure. More oil development will only produces more greenhouse gases that negatively impacts our fragile ecosystems. Our government would be more considerate to our future generations if we would invest in the abundant *renewable* resources Alaska has to offer.

The approach to this legislation was underhanded, politically motivated, and deceitful to the American people. There was no debate allowed in the legislative branches. Public scoping meetings were difficult for many public citizens to attend, yet oil companies, labor unions, and other corporations provided transportation and support for sending personnel supporting their agenda to these meetings. Fewer Americans and research institutions in the lower 48 had an opportunity to speak.

The USFWS in 2015, after years of scientific analysis, recommended wilderness protection for the coastal plain to Congress. This rider on a tax bill is another example of politics overriding science. There is a treaty protecting the Porcupine Caribou Herd between the U.S. and Canada. The BLM has a responsibility to follow the treaty's requirements.

This Environmental Impact Statement must not be rushed. Procedural and scientific integrity should take precedence over political expediency. The impacts of rushing without adequate public debate are too great for our future generations. Temporary jobs in the oil industry should not destroy one of the most pristine environments in our world.

Sincerely,

Leann Ronsse,
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