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**[EXTERNAL] Public comment-no drilling in the Arctic Refuge!**

1 message

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**Gail Richardson** <envirogail@q.com>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Sun, May 27, 2018 at 4:38 PM

We love immersing ourselves in America's wild public lands and have been for 40 years since meeting working in Yellowstone in 1978. Our native wildlife is very important to us; it is our shared biodiversity as a nation. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWAR) is a vast and unique landscape worth saving. It is our largest and wildest protected area with over 700 species of animals and plants, some of which are in danger because of climate change and habitat loss. Millions of migratory birds use ANWAR to nest and raise their young. All 3 bear species are found here as well as caribou and wolves, iconic species that deserve to live "untrammelled by man" and his works of industry. The coastal plain is key. Indigenous people live here, depending upon the bounties of wildlife like caribou and sea life for their survival.

Drilling in such a pristine environment would have disastrous consequences for the future of our precious public lands. A precedent would be set. If you could drill here you could drill anywhere. And yet companies wanting the right to drill here have millions of acres leased elsewhere but have never drilled. So, what is up with that? Let them drill where they have leases now! There are many problems with allowing drilling on the coastal plain of ANWAR: uncertainty about the quantity and quality of oil deposits; the harm to the environment and native wildlife; the effects of spreading industry and the very real possibility of oil spills; the fact that expensive new energy technology would be needed; the fact that drilling here will not lower the price of oil.

The BLM is supposed to work for the American people but more and more it seems that it only works for industry, no matter the cost. We have spent decades exploring wild lands, much of it on BLM lands in S. UT. We see the same thing happening there. This is not right, nor is it ethical. In fact, it is un-American. We value our treasured public lands for their biodiversity and for traditional recreation, for their beauty and uniqueness. Please do the right thing and reject drilling on the coastal plain. Future generations will thank you. Thank you for listening.

Gail and John Richardson

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