



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

1 message

Helen Reynolds <helen@seventeentimes.com>

Sat, May 5, 2018 at 6:12 AM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my concern about the plan for oil and gas leasing on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The point of a refuge is to provide legal protection for wildlife areas that would otherwise be vulnerable to development by entities that prioritize their own interests. Without such protections, we see that financial incentives will ultimately trump custodianship. Competition for resources will always create tension between public officials, whose position is to represent the whole community, and individual businesses, whose primary goals are profit. The greater the value of the land to the business, the greater the pressure placed on the public officials, who must struggle to act as guardians while also supporting the creation of jobs for locals.

As you weigh up the benefits of development versus preservation, I ask you to consider the fact that the impact of oil and gas activities in the region will have an irreversible impact on the land and its wildlife. I believe that with the tremendous power afforded by our capacity to rule over the earth, comes the responsibility to be serious, thoughtful and forward-thinking in our decision-making. I hope that you have all the resources you need to be able to take your time and make a decision based on abundant information about the ramifications of the project.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Helen Reynolds