



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

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**[EXTERNAL] No to arctic drilling**

1 message

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**Lisa Ronald** <lisa.a.k.ronald@gmail.com>

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 9:16 PM

To: "blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov" &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov&gt;

I'd like to voice my strong opposition to drilling in the arctic refuge. Science already exists to support the fact that drilling changes animal behavior including migration routes. Given the importance of the arctic refuge to Caribou herds as well as other Arctic animals, all at risk due to climate change, drilling in the arctic would threaten their populations and survival. Alaska survived one of the worst oil spills in history and it surprises me that your state continues to consider offshore drilling a viable option, particularly after the spills in the gulf. While oil technology has certainly advanced, we've learned from experience that it isn't a matter of if an accident will occur it's a matter of when and how severe. The fragile arctic isn't as resilient even as the gulf, and an oil spill would be catastrophic-environmentally, ethically, and economically.

Additionally, the arctic refuge represents the epitome of wildness in our country. This area is literally the battle of the century from an environmental perspective. Will we as a society choose to sully this landscape for short term oil gains, or protect it into the future? It's critical, as was written by Aldo Leopold, Arthur Carhart and others, to ensure that we as a society protect special Wild places. The Arctic is one of those places. I've never been to the Arctic and I may never, but I want to know that it will remain wild, that it will not be shackled by pipelines and oil infrastructure. I strongly hope that you base your decisions on science and sound reasoning and find in favor of the landscape, rather than the drilling industry.

Lisa Ronald